竹光侍

たけみつざむらい

His sword must be bamboo!

八

松本大洋
【作】永福一成

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

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TAKEMITSU ZAMURAI

ART BY:
MATSUMOTO TAIYOU
STORY BY:
EIFUKU ISSEI

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【作】松本大洋
永福一成
【考証】保垣孝幸

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

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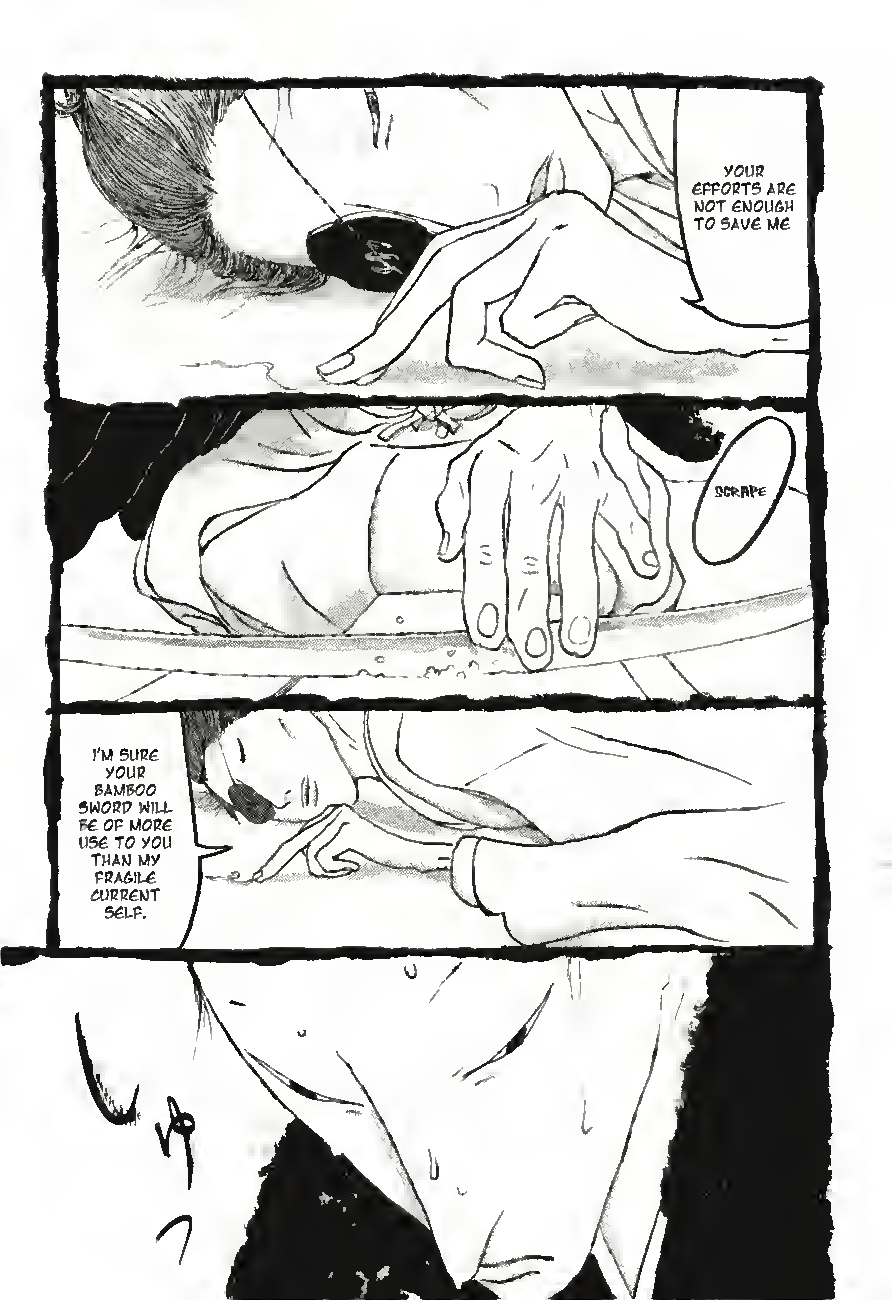
CHAPTER 71

BEGINNING OF THE END


YOUR EFFORTS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO SAVE ME
SCRAPE
I'M SURE YOUR BAMBOO SWORD WILL BE OF MORE USE TO YOU THAN MY FRAGILE CURRENT SELF.

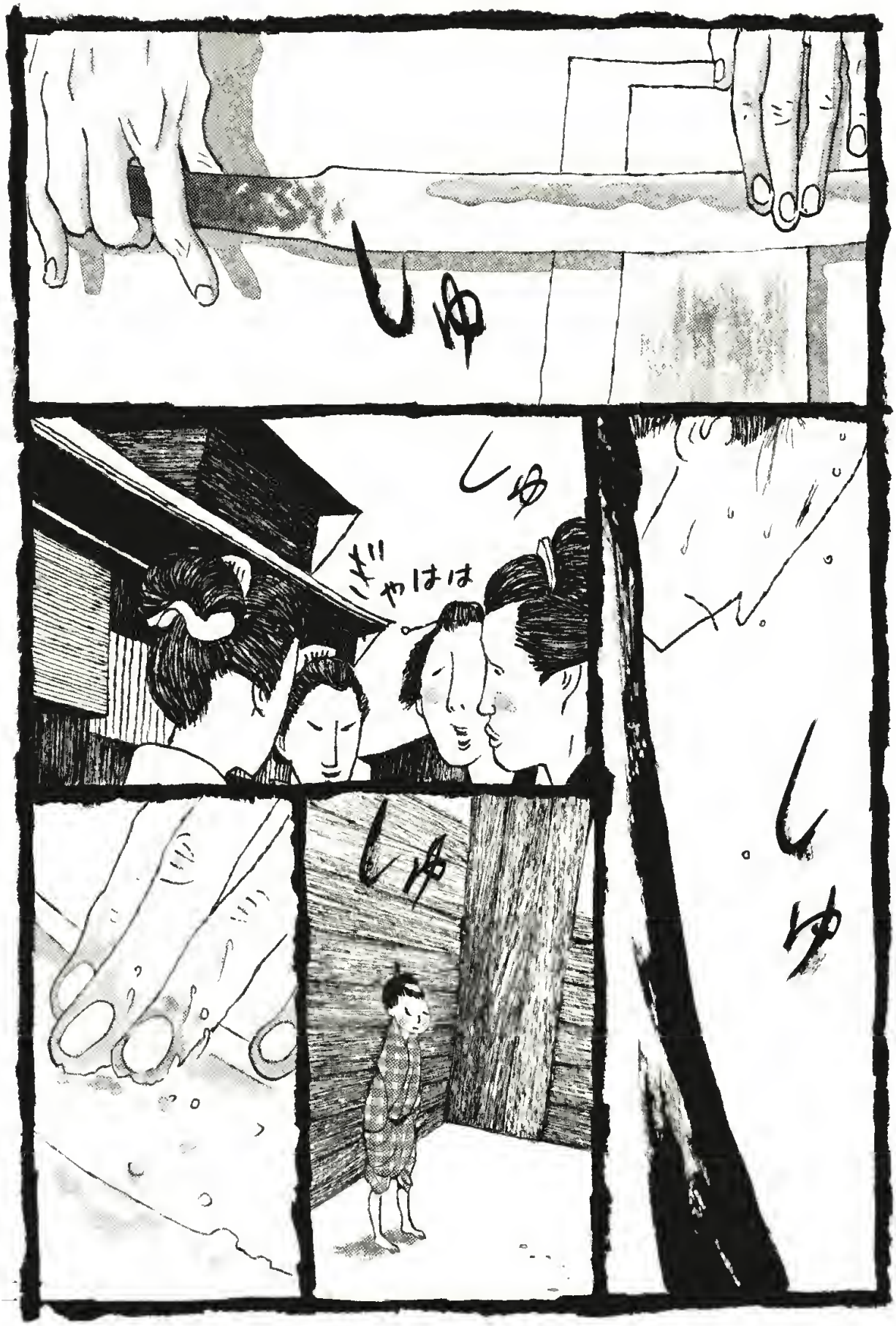
*A PHRASE THAT REFERS TO A SWORD OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE.

MY ONLY REGRET IN LIFE IS THAT I SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU UNTIL THE VERY END...
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
AHHH... I WISH TO RETURN TO THE MOUNTAINS...
OH, HOW I LONG FOR THE DAYS WHEN YOU, YOUR PARENTS, AND I LIVED DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS...

GOOD MORNING, KAN.
STEP
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S QUITE UNUSUAL TO SEE SOMEONE LIKE YOU POLISH A BLADE.
OH,
AND WHAT BRINGS ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY?

IT ALMOST SEEMED AS IF THE SWORD WAS SUCKING YOU IN
WELL IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOWED US QUITE A SIGHT...
WELL, I HAVE BEEN RATHER NEGLECTFUL AS OF LATE.
HA HA
IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU FINALLY FOUND A LORD TO SERVE.
POUR

HA
HA
HA
HA


しゅ
しゅ
ざゃはは
しゅ
しゅ

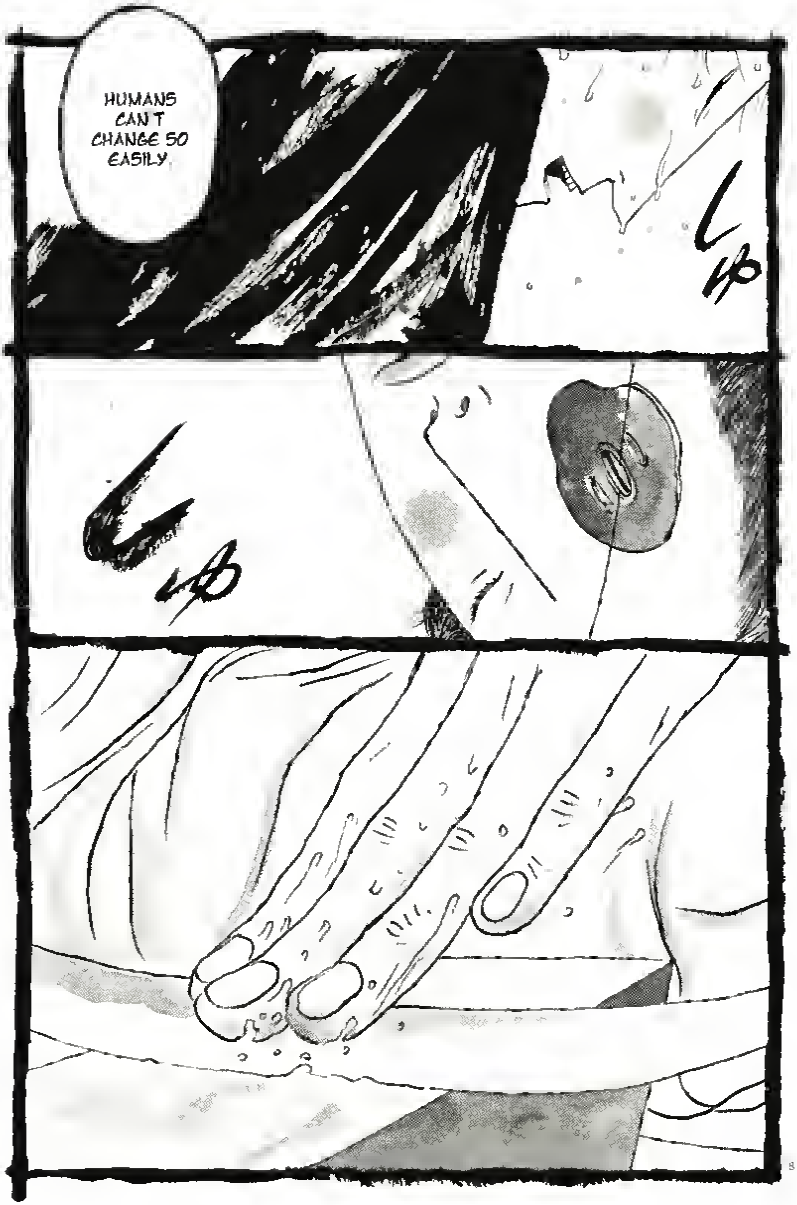
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WITH THAT BLANK-FACED LOOK? YOU GOING SENILE?
HM?
IT'S SAKURA-MOCHI FROM FUJI.
HAHA, HERE.
LIKE HELL I AM!

SOME-THING WRONG?
WHATEVER YOU WANT.
NOW THEN... WHAT SHALL WE PLAY TODAY? SHOGI? GO?
.....
YOU SEEM RATHER GRUMPY TODAY.
TAP
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
DON'T BRING UP ANY UNNECES-SARY TALK. JUST MAKE YOUR DAMN MOVE ALREADY.

SCRAPE
SCRAPE

しゅ
しゅ
しゅ
しゅ

DO YOU BELIEVE A PERSON CAN CHANGE IF ENOUGH TIME PASSES?
WHAT?
BECAUSE I CERTAINLY DON'T.


HUMANS CAN'T CHANGE SO EASILY.

FROM HEREON
IS THE END.

CHAPTER 22

LOYALTY

YES, IT IS QUITE WINDY TODAY AFTER ALL...
IT LOOKS AS IF THE CLOUDS ARE RUNNING, DOESN'T IT, MITSU?
YES.
THEY LOOK LIKE A SCHOOL OF FISH...

I WOULD ONLY DISTURB HIM IF I DID THAT.
NO,
IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO GO VISIT NAGAYA TENE-MENTS OR THE SCHOOL
TEACHER SENOU MAY NOT COME HERE TODAY, MR. MORI.
AND I MUSTN'T DO THAT.
I SHALL PATIENTLY WAIT HERE FOR THE TIME BEING.
ひゅう
ひゅう

A TEACHER...?
WHO? KAMEI?
AFTER ALL THERE'S NO WAY I CAN USE THE SWORD WITH THIS LEG.
YES, I WAS THINKING OF RETURNING BACK HOME AND TEACHING THE LOCAL KIDS HOW TO READ AND WRITE...
I GOT THE IDEA AFTER LOOKING AT HIM
TO BE HONEST, I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR AWHILE NOW

TO THINK THAT KAMEI OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD BECOME A TEACHER!
WOW.
WELL, I CERTAINLY DON'T OBJECT BUT...
IT WOULD BE REASSURING IF I HAD YOUR SUPPORT, MORI.
SO YOU'LL LEAVE BEHIND THE SWORD...
I SEE.

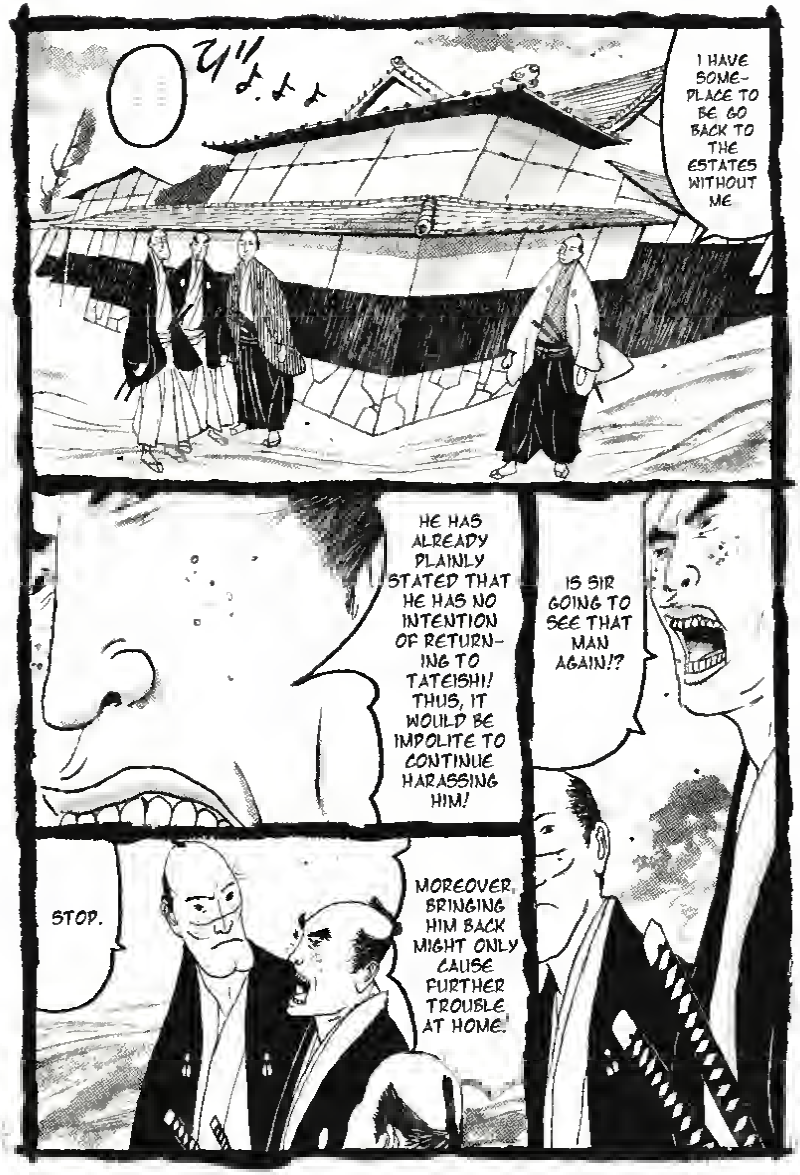
AFTER FACING THAT ASSASSIN, I NO LONGER WISH TO BE A SAMURAI.
AS I WATCHED MY COMRADES BE CUT DOWN LIKE HELPLESS BLADES OF GRASS
I REALIZED ALL THE TIME AND TRAINING I DEVOTED TO THE SWORD EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNG BOY ULTIMATELY PROVED TO BE USELESS
RUNNING AWAY LIKE A LITTLE LOUSE. HE DID
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT EVEN HE ENDED UP TURNING TAIL WHEN SENOU ARRIVED!
TRUE. OUR SKILL WITH THE SWORD IS NO MATCH FOR THAT MAN WHOSE ONLY CALLING IN LIFE IS KILLING.
NO. RUNNING AWAY WAS THE CORRECT DECISION FOR HIM THEN.

HE KNOWS BEST HOW TO SURVIVE NO MATTER WHAT.
AND WHEN HE FIGHTS NEXT TIME ON EQUAL GROUNDS WITH SENOU, I FEAR EVEN SENOU MAY BE OF NO MATCH FOR HIM.

PANT
PANT
PANT
IT'S FINE, MITSU.
SO SCRAM!
RIKI! I'M NOT GOING TO BE GIVING YOU ANY FOOD, YOU HEAR!?
HE CAN WAIT HERE WITH ME.
THAT MAY BE THE WISE THING TO DO.
PANT
PANT

WHAT IS, SIR?
WITH THE DEATH OF SIR JUUZOU, PERHAPS THE SWORD OF OUR HOUSE WILL COME TO AN END AS WELL.
THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO NEED FOR WARRIORS IN THESE TIMES.
BECOMING A TEACHER.
IT IS I WHO KILLED HIM.
NO, IT'S FINE.
AH... I WAS CERTAINLY NOT IMPLYING THAT HIS DEATH WAS SIR'S FAU...

YES, BUT THAT WAS MERELY HIM LOOKING AFTER ME AS ALWAYS. IT DOES NOT CHANGE MY GUILTY
SAYING HE WOULD ENTRUST HIS DAUGHTER SAE TO SIR'S HANDS?
BUT DIDN'T HE LEAVE BEHIND A LETTER,
HA HA


ひゅるるる
I HAVE SOME-PLACE TO BE GO BACK TO THE ESTATES WITHOUT ME
HE HAS ALREADY PLAINLY STATED THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF RETURN-ING TO TATEISHI! THUS, IT WOULD BE IMPOLITE TO CONTINUE HARASSING HIM!
IS SIR GOING TO SEE THAT MAN AGAIN!?
STOP.
MOREOVER, BRINGING HIM BACK MIGHT ONLY CAUSE FURTHER TROUBLE AT HOME!

HE USED TO SPOUT SUCH FAIRYTALE-LIKE THINGS...
HM...
I WON-DER...
HE'S CHANGED

HM?
WOOF
WOOF

WOOF
WOOF

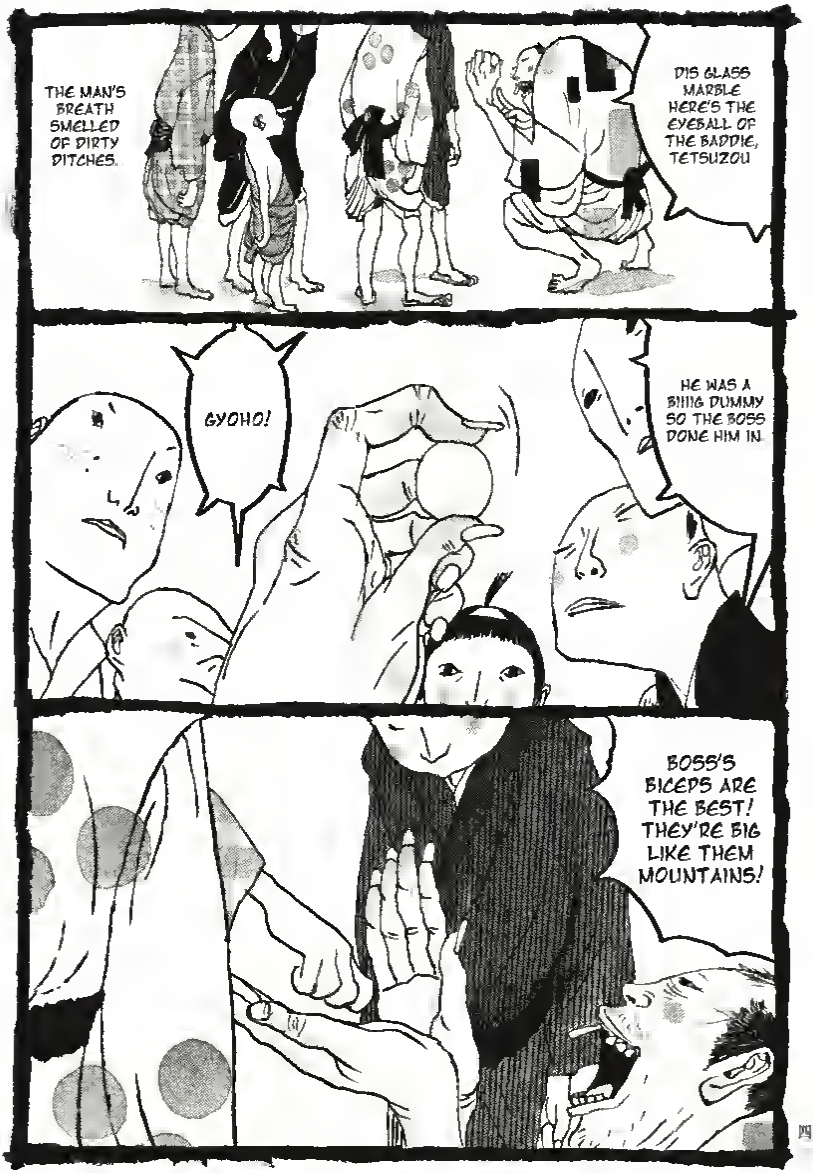
TAP
WOOF
WOOF
AGH, RIKI! YOUR DROOL...
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF

HELLO, MITSU. I'LL HAVE A DANGO STICK, PLEASE
OH, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME TODAY.
THAT, I AM...
WOOF
WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME MAN.
WOOF
.....
SURE THING.
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF

MAKE IT TWO, ACTUALLY.
OK.
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF

CHAPTER 73

RED-EYES AND THE CHILDREN


THE MAN'S BREATH SMELLED OF DIRTY DITCHES.
DIS GLASS MARBLE HERE'S THE EYEBALL OF THE BADDIE, TETSUZOU
GYOHO!
HE WAS A BIIIIG DUMMY SO THE BOSS DONE HIM IN.
BOSS'S BICEPS ARE THE BEST! THEY'RE BIG LIKE THEM MOUNTAINS!

GYOHO?
I'M GIVIN' IT!
BUT I DON'T NEED IT
ME?
'ERE.
I'LL GIVE IT TO YA.
I GOT LOTS OF'EM TREAS-URES!
BUT DUN TOUCH'EM WITH YER DIRTY HANDS!

SHEESH, EVEN THOUGH HIS WOUNDS'VE ALL HEALED UP AND EVERY-THIN'.
HE DRINKS ONLY WATER SO HE'S REALLY THIN.
BOSS AIN'T EATIN' NO FOOD THESE DAYS
SAYS SOMETHIN' ABOUT LOSING WEIGHT AND GOIN' BACK TO THE OLD DAYS.
YOU BEST NOT BE EYEIN' MY STUFF!
HEY! YOU DAMN CROWS!

ALWAYS BE TRYIN' TA TAKE MY TREA-SURE!
BEAT IT!
FILTHY CROWS WHO ONLY EVER TALK ABOUT FOOD! YER ALL A BUNCH O' CROOKS!
GYOHO!
I SAID SCRAM!
LOOK AT HIS EYES...

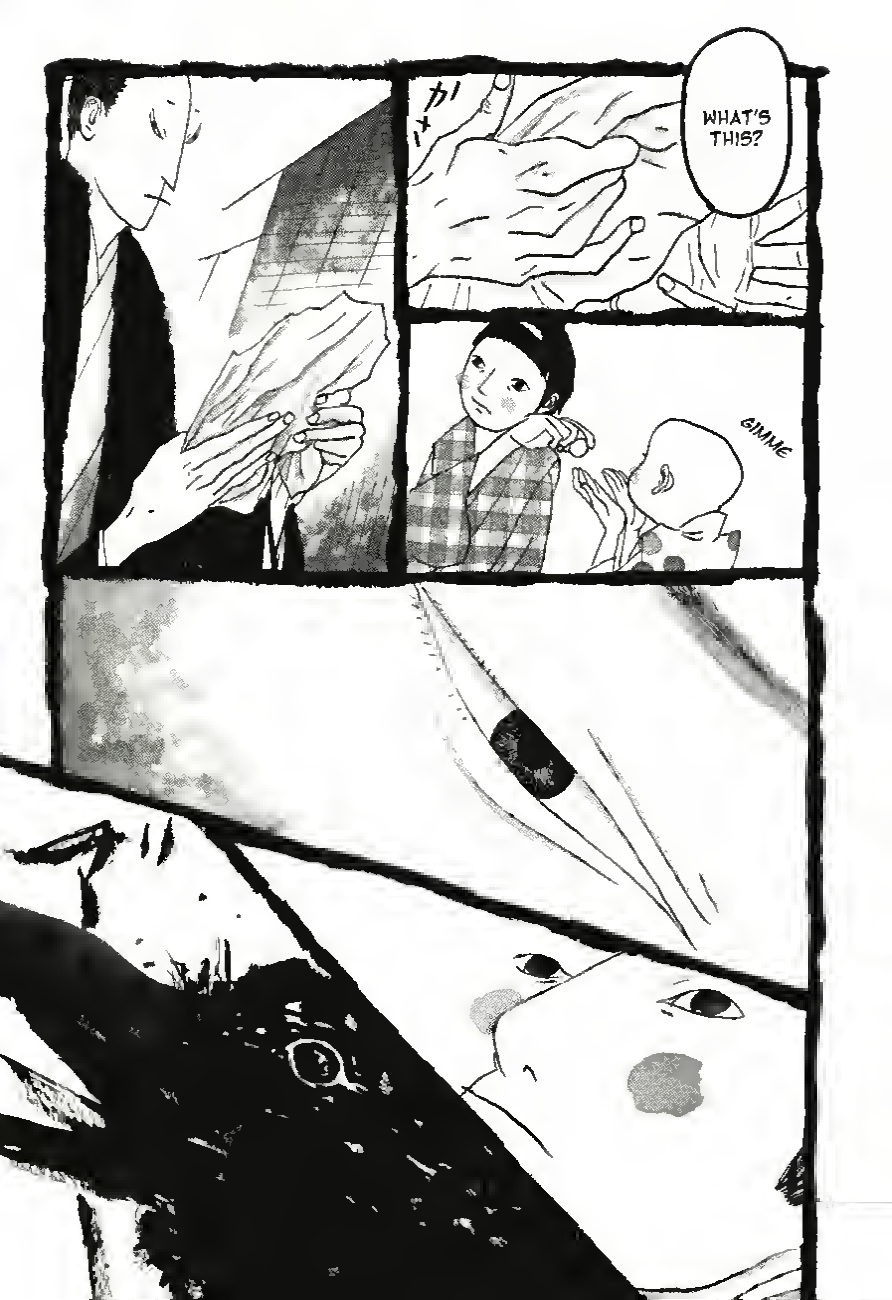
SHE HAD MUD STUFFED UP HER NOSE, HEE HEE.
I REMEMBER I ONCE SAW A CORPSE OF A LADY WITH HER DEAD CHILD RAISED UP FROM A WELL.
YUCK, THIS RIVER WATER IS TERR-IBLE.
THIS'LL BE THE LAST JOB.
AFTER THIS, I'M GONNA CUT MY TIES WITH THE BOSS.
SIP...
HEE HEE. HOT, HOT!
HEH HEH, RUN AWAY!
.....

ズあああぁ
ふふふ
ズあああ
ふふふ

HAHAHA.
AGHHH, SO BRIGHT!
HEH HEH HEH

TEACHER!
WHAT'RE YOU CHILDREN DOING?
YEAH, KAN GOT A GLASS EYE.
LOOK, SOU. I GOT A GLASS MARBLE.
A GLASS MARBLE?
I'LL REMEMBER THIS BRATS!

HUH?
HE'S GONE.
THAT MAN GAVE IT.
THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR OBI, KAN.
HM?


カイト
WHAT'S THIS?
GIMME

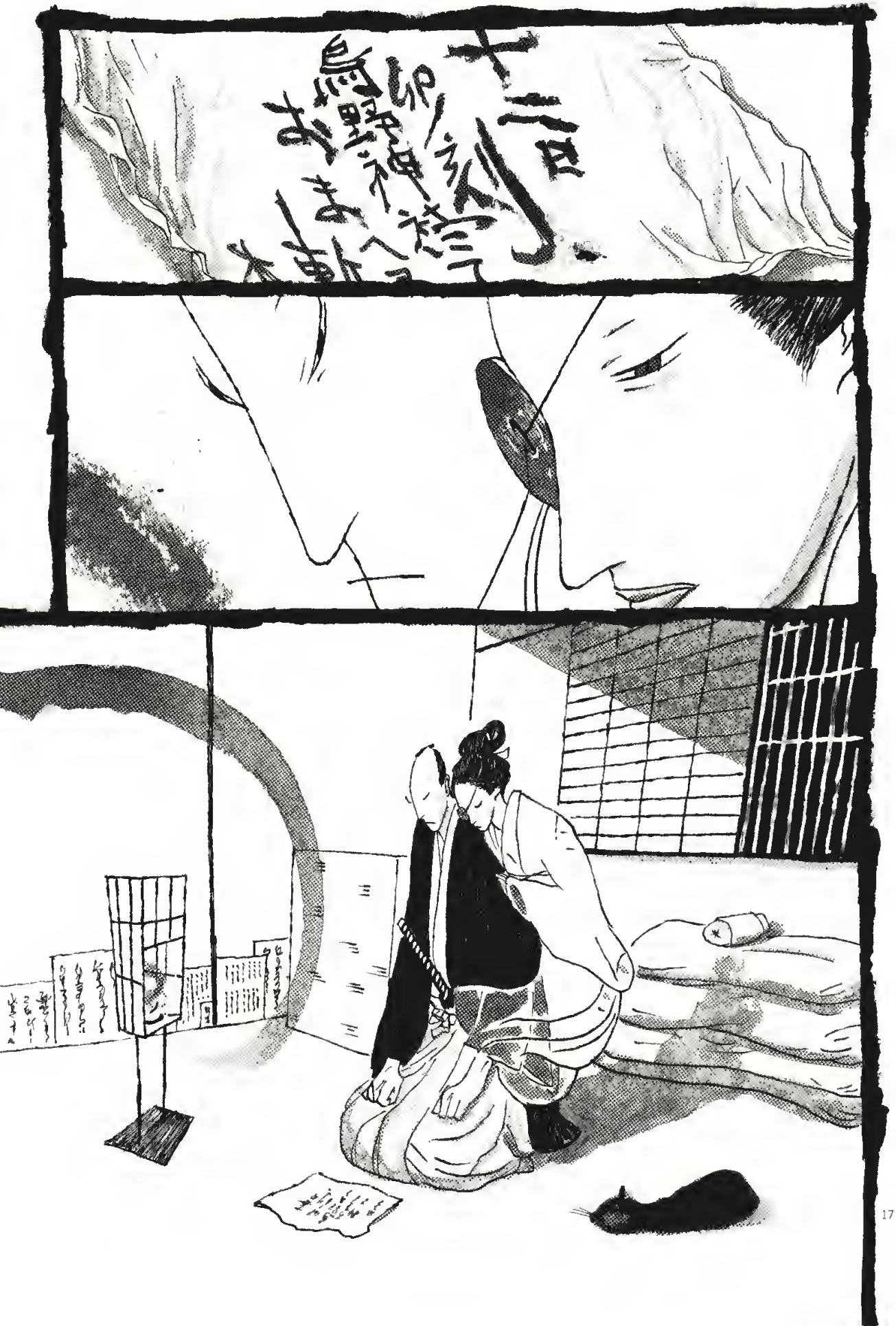
IT'S NOTHING...
くしゃ
WHAT IS IT, TEACHER?

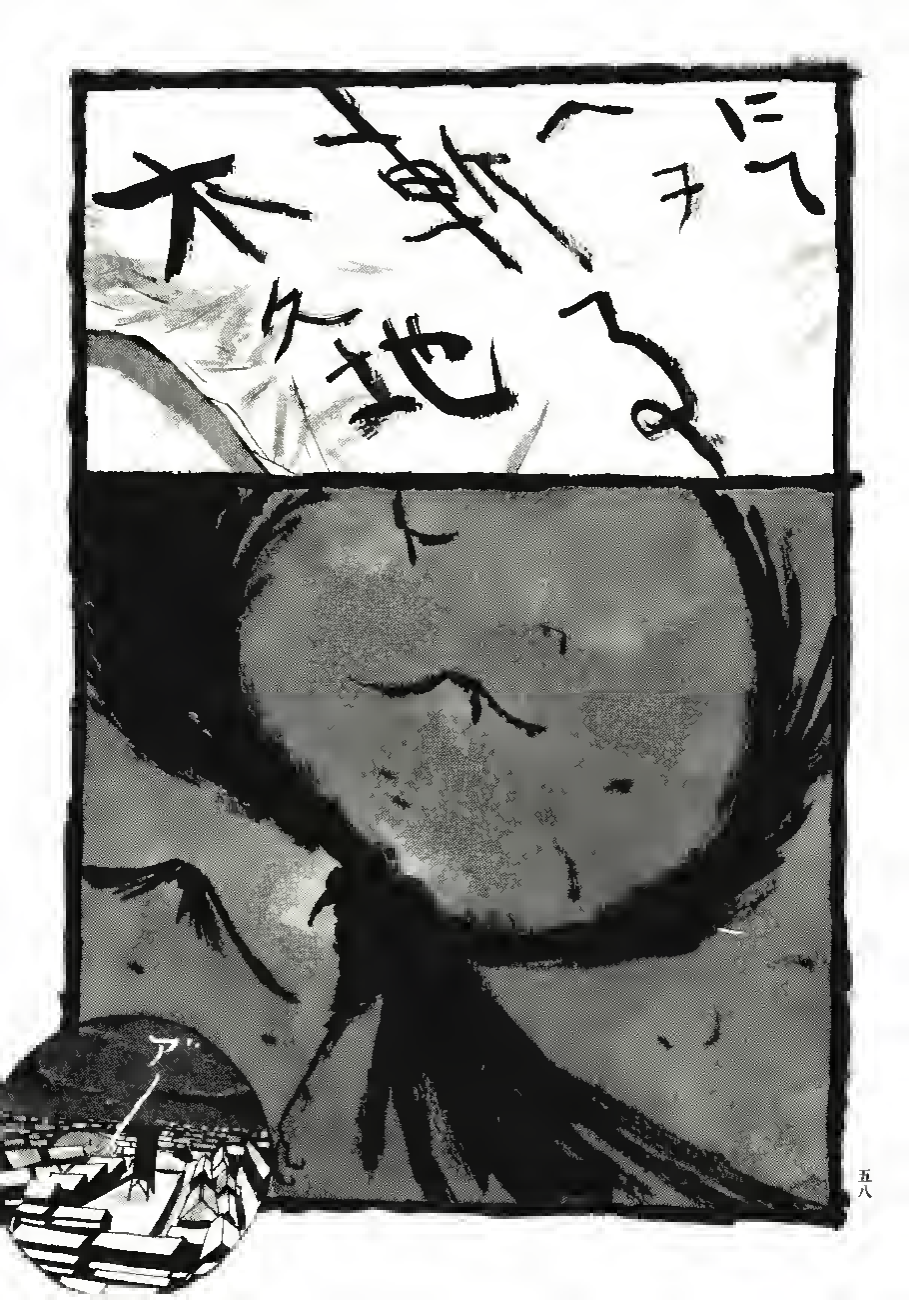
HEE HEE
THAT RED-EYES
HE BRINGS BLOOD
NOW THEN, SHALL WE HEAD BACK HOME?
OK!
HEE HEE HEE
ASSASSIN
HEE HEE HEE
KIKUJI WILL BECOME A DEMON.

GYOHO!

ぐおおおお
ぐおおおお

*LETTER READS: ON 6AM OF THE 12TH AT TORINO SHRINE, I SHALL CUT YOU DOWN. -KIKUCHI-

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CHAPTER 74

LORD AND RETAINER

SEE BOSS, THE WORMS IN YOUR STOMACH ARE CRYING FOR FOOD.
BZZ
BZZ
GUURGLE
BZZ
THEY SAY'LL THEY DIE WITH-OUT FOOD
BZZ...

HERE EAT, BOSS.
BOSS...

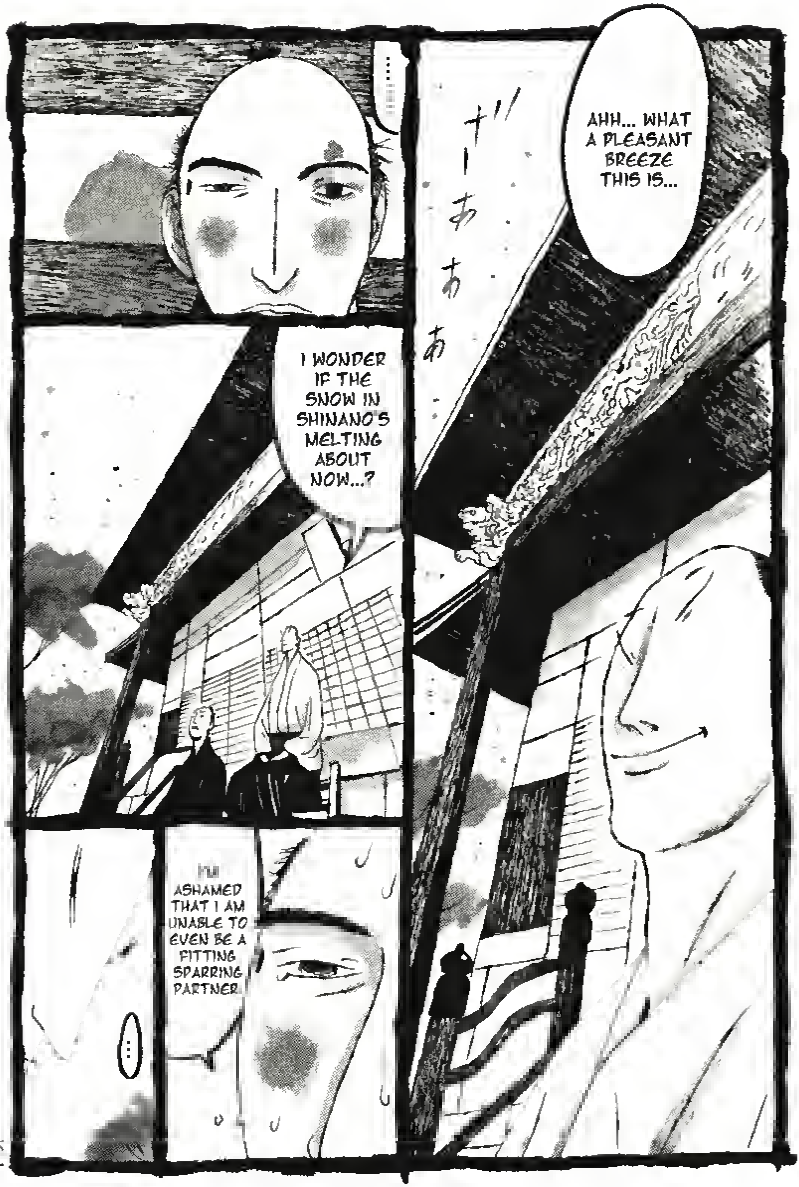
UGH!
COUGH
COUGH

ざぁぁぁ
HUFF
STEP...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
きゅ
だぁ
あ
あ
あ

すり
THAT'S ENOUGH.

THAT'LL DO, MORI.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
NGH...
YES, SIR.

BOSS!


AHH... WHAT A PLEASANT BREEZE THIS IS...
I WONDER IF THE SNOW IN SHINANO'S MELTING ABOUT NOW...?
I'M ASHAMED THAT I AM UNABLE TO EVEN BE A FITTING SPARRING PARTNER.

さいあぁ

PLEASE GRANT THIS PITIFUL MORI SAZATAROU'S ONE AND ONLY WISH, SIR!
GIVE UP THE DUEL WITH KIKUCHI AND RETURN TO TATEISHI WITH ME, SIR!
THE ONLY THING THAT WILL RESULT FROM THIS DUEL IS SIR'S CORPSE!

THE ONE WHO SHALL END UP DEAD IS NONE OTHER THAN SIR!

ざあぁ

BUT I AM NOT THE NICE MAN THAT EVERYONE THINKS I AM.
I KNOW YOU HOLD ME IN HIGH REGARD....
I AM UNWORTHY OF YOUR KINDNESS.

HEE...
HEE
HEE
HEE...

I SHALL NEVER GIVE UP, SIR.
EVEN IF IT MEANS TYING A NOOSE AROUND SIR'S NECK, I SHALL BRING SIR BACK TO TATEISHI.
.....
.....

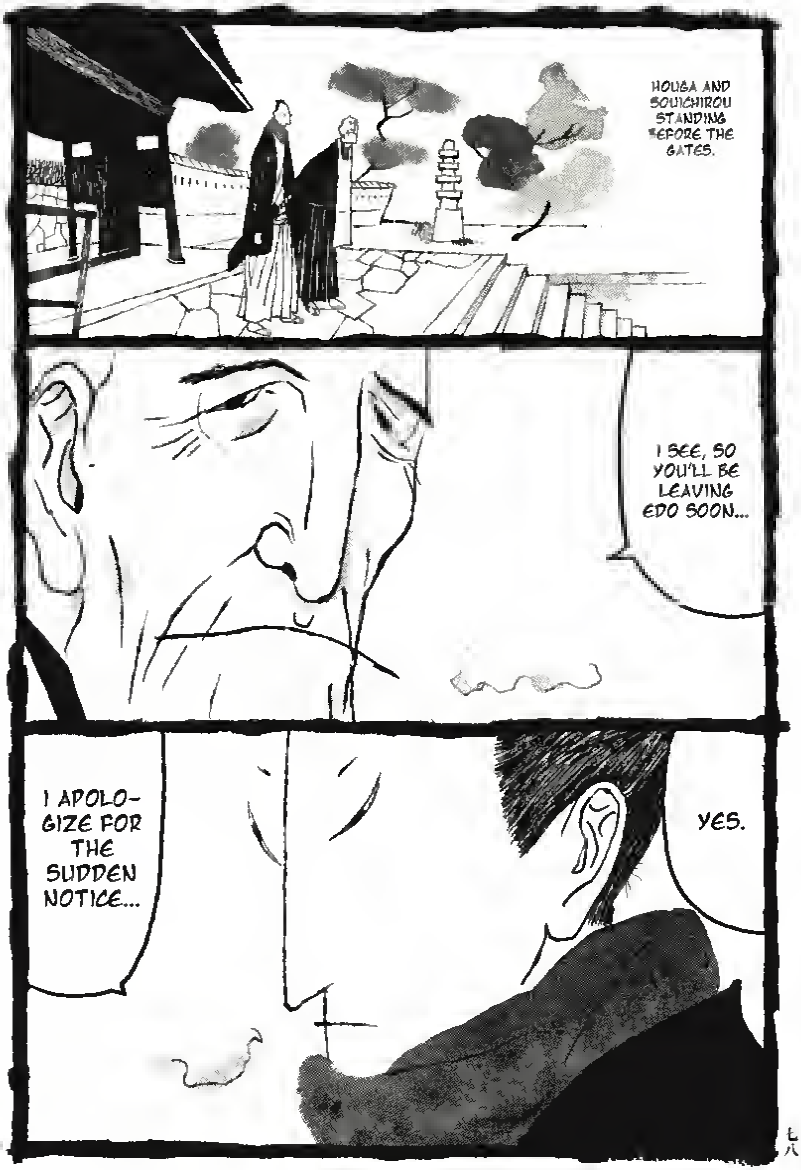
SEND MY BEST REGARDS TO YAMAMOTO AND THE OTHERS.
YES.

SHIZO
ここここ!

DON'T YOU DARE DIE!

CHAPTER 75

INTIMACY


HOUGA AND SOUICHIROU STANDING BEFORE THE GATES.
I SEE, SO YOU'LL BE LEAVING EDO SOON...
YES.
I APOLO-GIZE FOR THE SUDDEN NOTICE...

THEY'RE ALL SO ATTACHED TO YOU.
HMM... THE KIDS WILL BE QUITE SAD...
IN THE PAST, YOU MEN-TIONED THAT THERE'S A DEMON INSIDE YOU... DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH WHY YOU'RE LEAVING...?
WELL,
.....

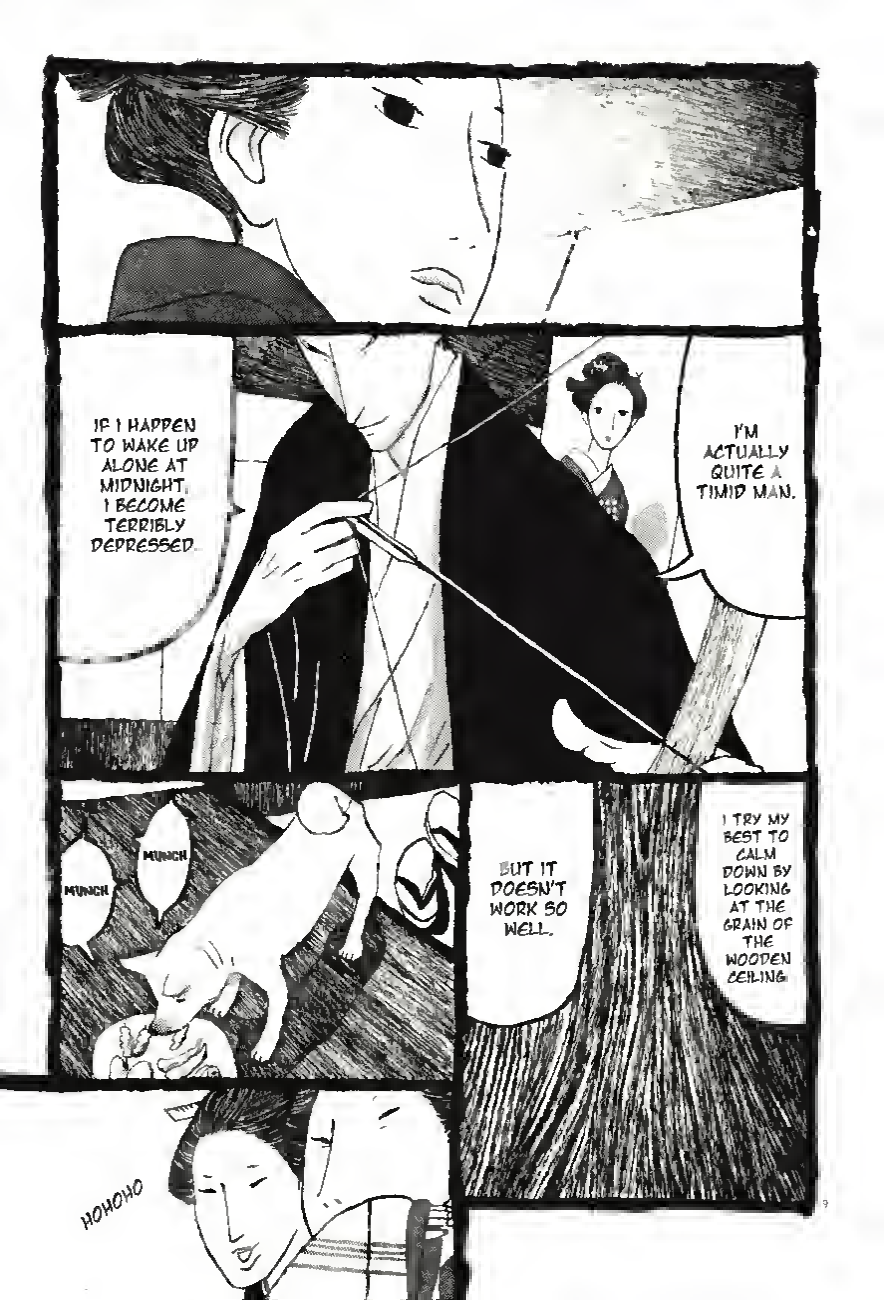
IS THAT SO...
I DON'T QUITE UNDER-STAND MYSELF, EITHER.
YES, HE WAS QUITE DISAP-PROVING
HA
YOZAE MUST'VE BEEN QUITE ANGRY TO HEAR THAT YOU'RE LEAVING WITHOUT GOOD REASON
HMM...

YES.
BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE HE CARES VERY MUCH ABOUT YOU.

DOWN BOY, DOWN!
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
TRYING TO TRIP ME UP SO YOU CAN STEAL THE FOOD, HUH?
WELL THAT TRICK WON'T WORK.
WOOF
THIS FOOD ISN'T FOR YOU, RIKI!
WOOF
ちらり

AH...
カリ
WOOF
WOOF
HELLO, KATSU.
SOU!
火の用心

HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ALONG WITH RIKI?
IT'S ALRIGHT, I DON'T NEED ANY.
WHAT PERFECT TIMING, I JUST BROUGHT BACK SOME TEMPURA.
HMPH. THIS MUTT'S SO STUBBORN ABOUT FOOD AND ISN'T THE TEENSIEST BIT HELPFUL!
PANT
SHALL WE GO UPSTAIRS?
NO, I ONLY CAME TO SEE YOUR FACE TODAY.
PAF


I'M ACTUALLY QUITE A TIMID MAN.
IF I HAPPEN TO WAKE UP ALONE AT MIDNIGHT, I BECOME TERRIBLY DEPRESSED.
I TRY MY BEST TO CALM DOWN BY LOOKING AT THE GRAIN OF THE WOODEN CEILING.
BUT IT DOESN'T WORK SO WELL.
MUNCH
MUNCH
HOHOHO

LIKE A WELL BUCKET THROWN INTO THE DEPTHS OF NOTHING-NESS, I PLUNGE DEEPER AND DEEPER. THE FURTHER DOWN I FALL, THE SADDER I BECOME.

EVENTUALLY, I CANNOT EVEN BRING MYSELF TO STAND UP ANYMORE.

I WAS JUST SPEAKING FONDLY OF THE PAST.
A HIT!
RING

YOU HERE, KATSU!?
どかどか
WOOF
.....
I BROUGHT ALL MY BUDDIES ALONG TODAY.
LET'S GO SIT DOWN OVER THERE.
YEAH.
.....
HELLO, FUJI AND CHIYO. HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
LOOKS LIKE RIKI'S THE DUMB OLD MUTT AS ALWAYS. HAHA
WOOF

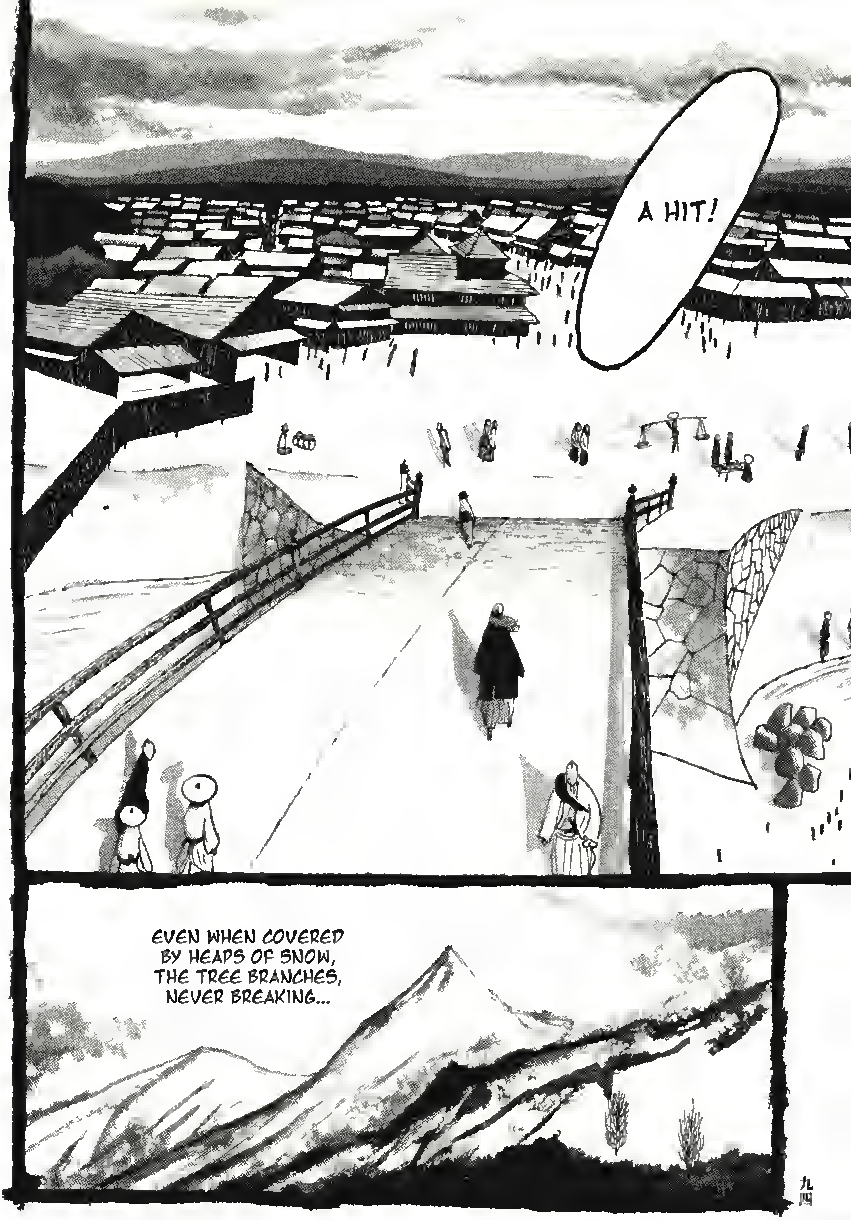
IT'S JUST LIKE HUNTING
!
KATSU...
I'LL BE GOING NOW.
SO THIS IS IT, I SEE...

九〇

SLIDE...
GA HA HA HA

HUNTING?
HA!
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN HUNTED BEFORE!
GAHAHA, TRUE, TRUE!

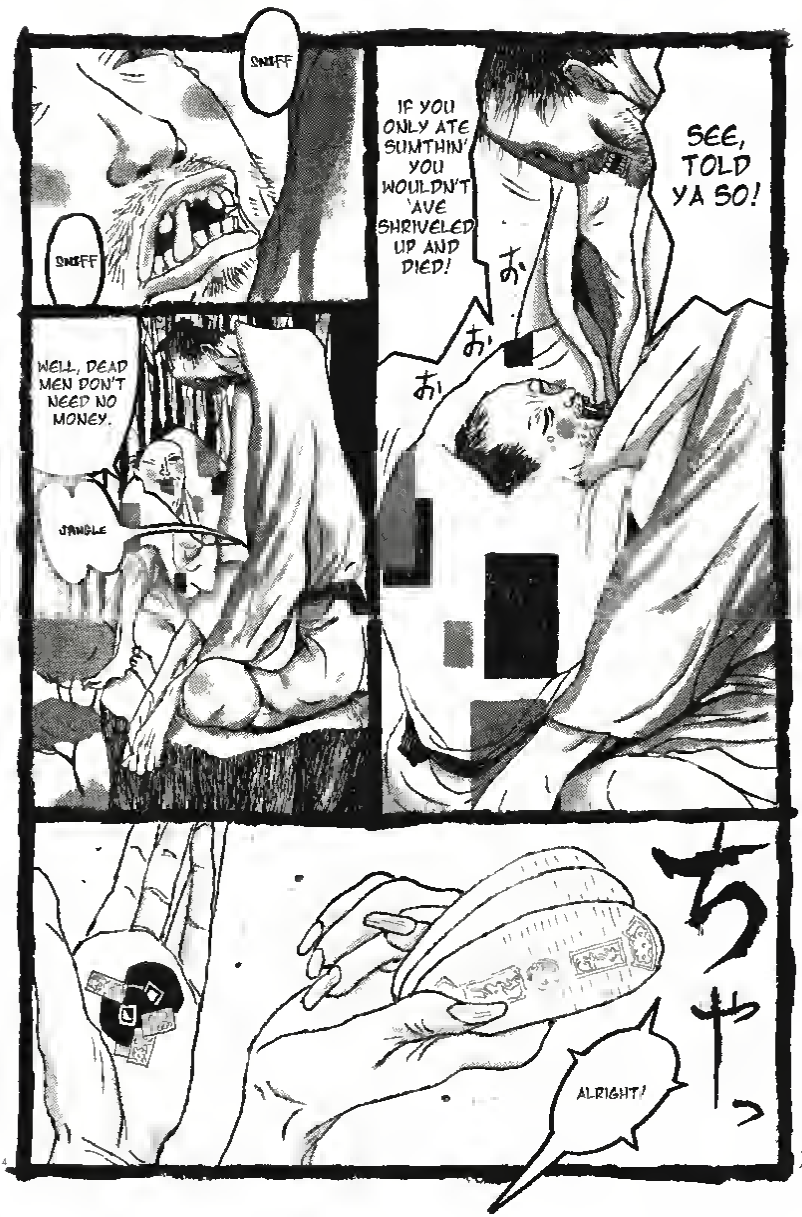
HEY, WE AIN'T MADE OF MONEY! WE'LL BE TAKING OUR TIME!
ALRIGHT, ENOUGH TALKING NONSENSE AND STARTING SHOOTING SOME ARROWS!
ちゃり


A HIT!
EVEN WHEN COVERED BY HEAPS OF SNOW, THE TREE BRANCHES, NEVER BREAKING...

CHAPTER 78
LIE

BOSS!
BOSS?

EAT UP!
HERE! IT'S A RICE-BALL!
もそ
DROP
DROP
ぼろ
ぼろ
ぼろ
GYOHO!


SNIFF
SNIFF
IF YOU ONLY ATE SUMTHIN' YOU WOULDN'T 'AVE SHRIVELED UP AND DIED!
SEE, TOLD YA SO!
お
お
お
WELL, DEAD MEN DON'T NEED NO MONEY.
JANGLE
ちゃっ
ALRIGHT!

HEY, MESHI! YOU BEST SCURRY ALONG, Y'HEAR!?

BOSS AIN'T NOTHING BUT A ROTTIN' CORPSE.

HMPH!

GYOHO!

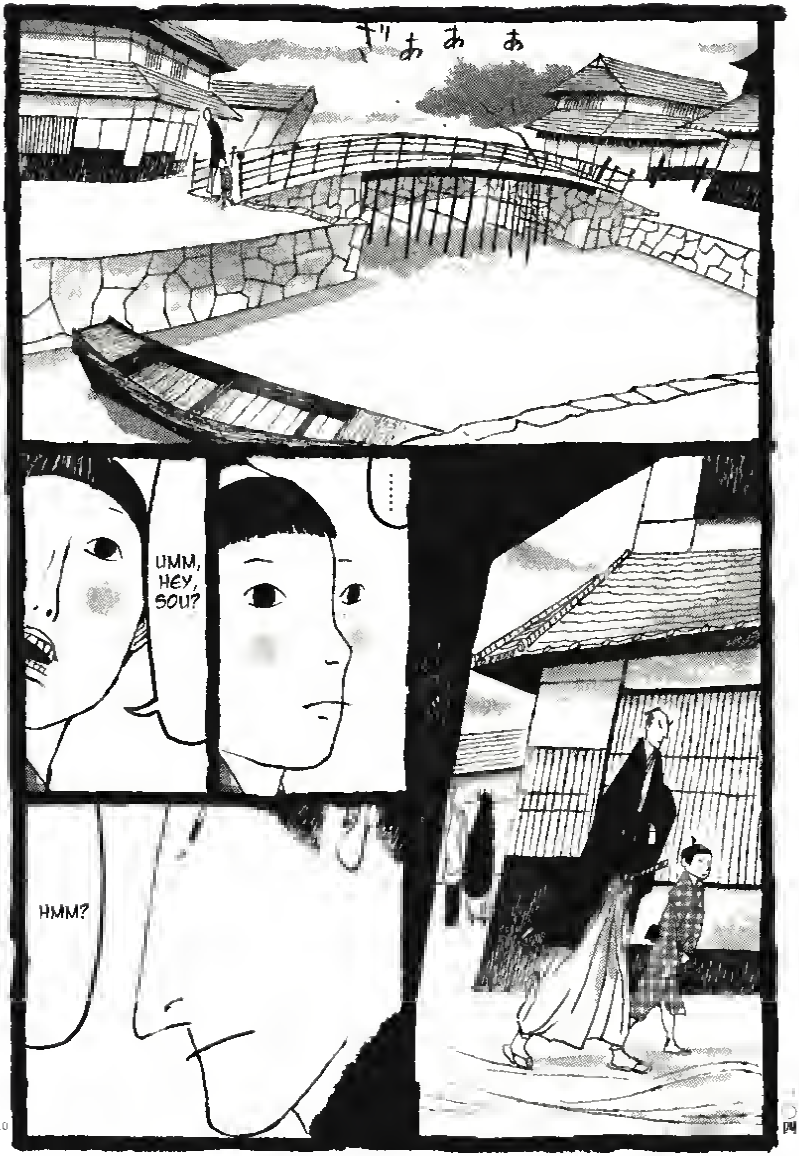
FINE, DO WHA'CHA WANT...

DUMB RAT.

ざあああ

STEP
HUH?
HM...
HEE
HEE

HEE
HEE
HEE


ざぁぁぁ
UMM, HEY, SOU?
……
HMM?

ARE YOU GOING TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
I WON'T GO ANYWHERE.
YOU KNOW I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

I WON'T EVER LEAVE YOU AND YOSHIBOU.
A WARRIOR TELLS NO LIES.
REALLY!?

DASH
LOOK, KAN! IT'S A BUTTERFLY!
LET'S GO FLY LIKE BUTTER-FLIES!
OK!

はは
はは
わ
あ
あ

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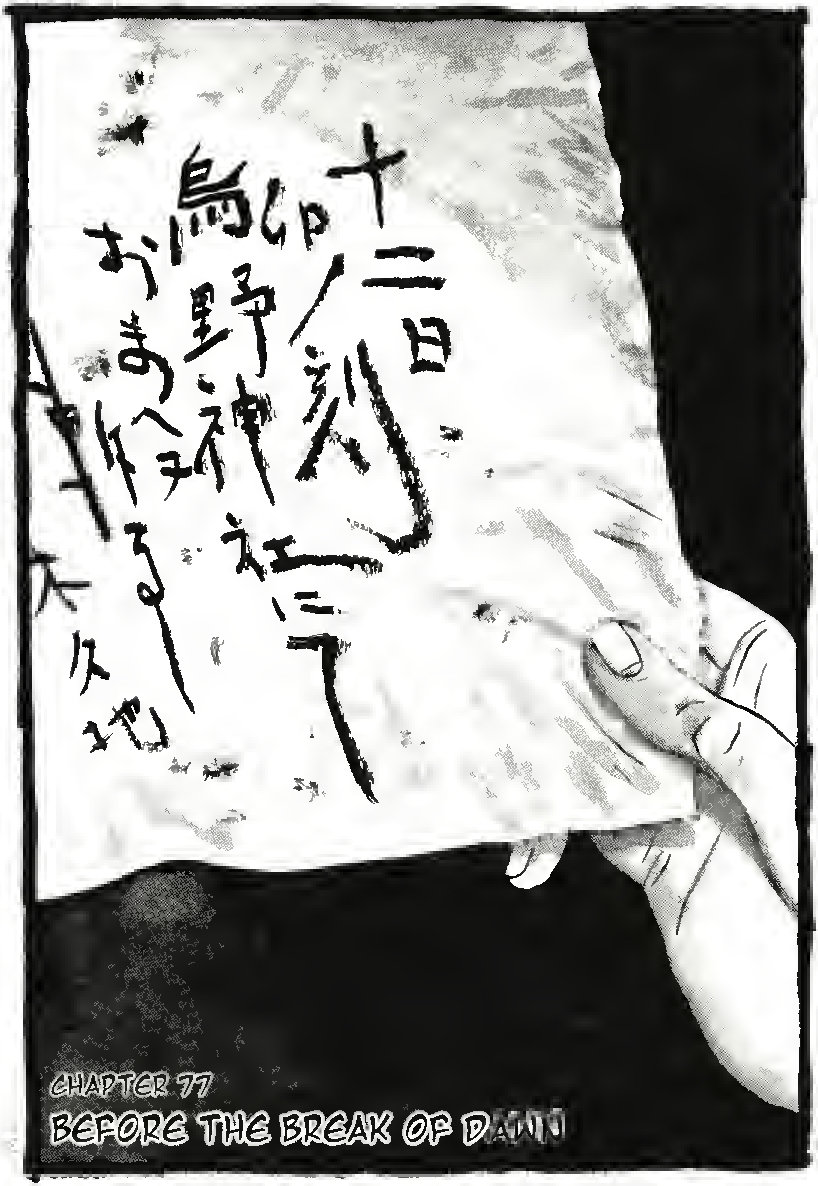
は
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT SOUICHIROU LIED TO KANKICHI.

THE NEXT MORNING, SENOU SOUICHIROU LEFT THE KATAGI TENEMENTS.

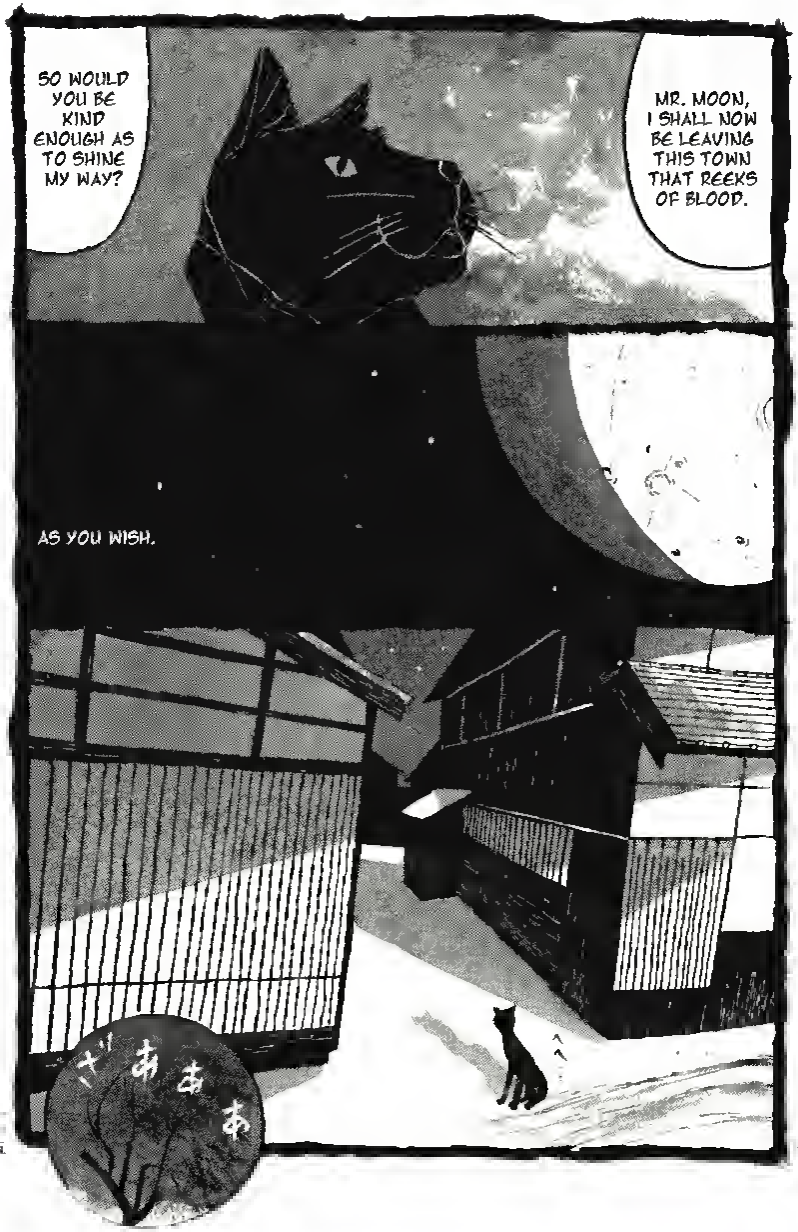


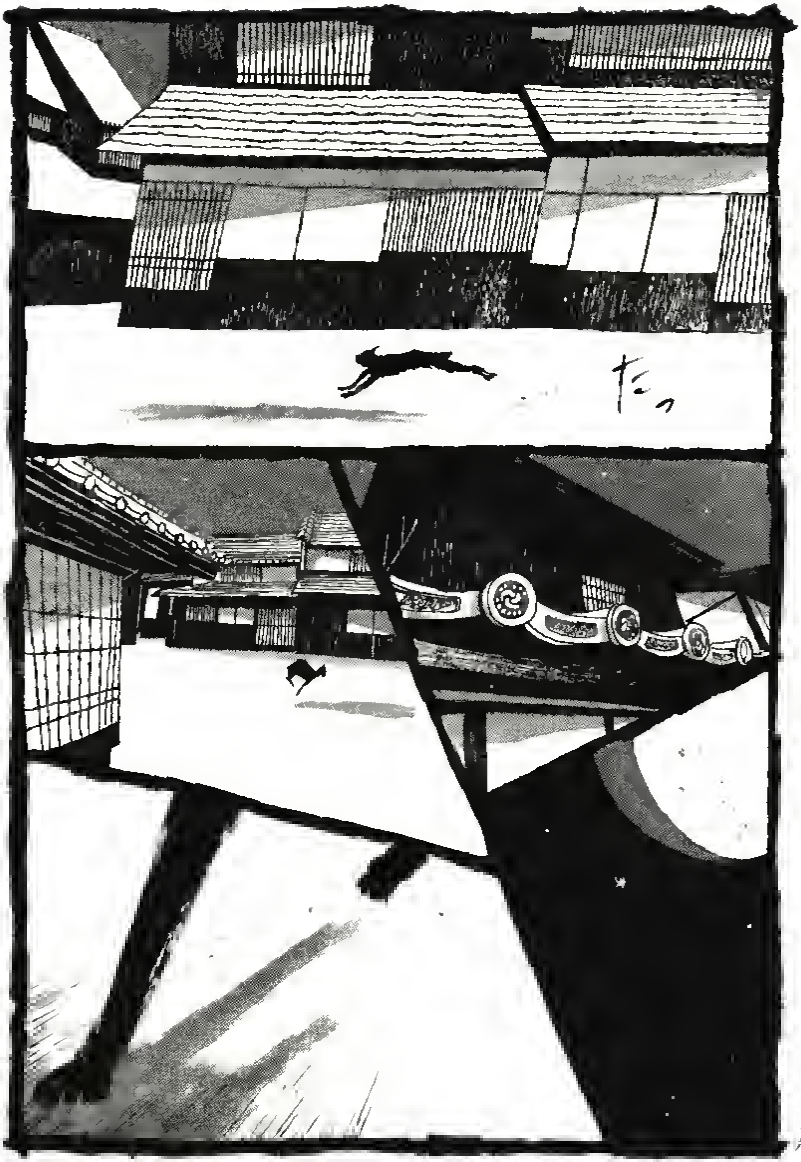
CHAPTER 77

BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN

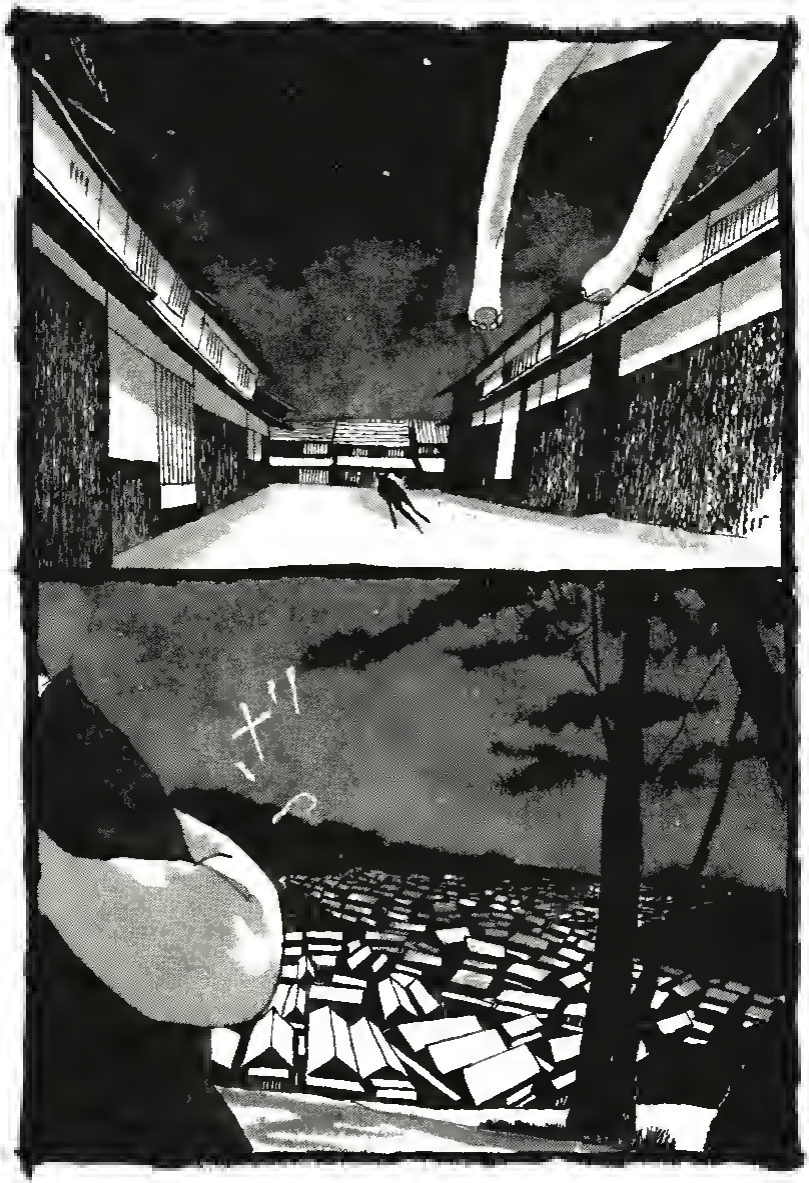
*LETTER READS: ON 6AM OF THE 12TH AT TORINO SHRINE, I SHALL CUT YOU DOWN.
-KIKUCHI-

キーゆ
ど…


SO WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH AS TO SHINE MY WAY?
MR. MOON, I SHALL NOW BE LEAVING THIS TOWN THAT REEKS OF BLOOD.
AS YOU WISH.
ざあああ



!
MEOW!



ザーっ

ザーっ

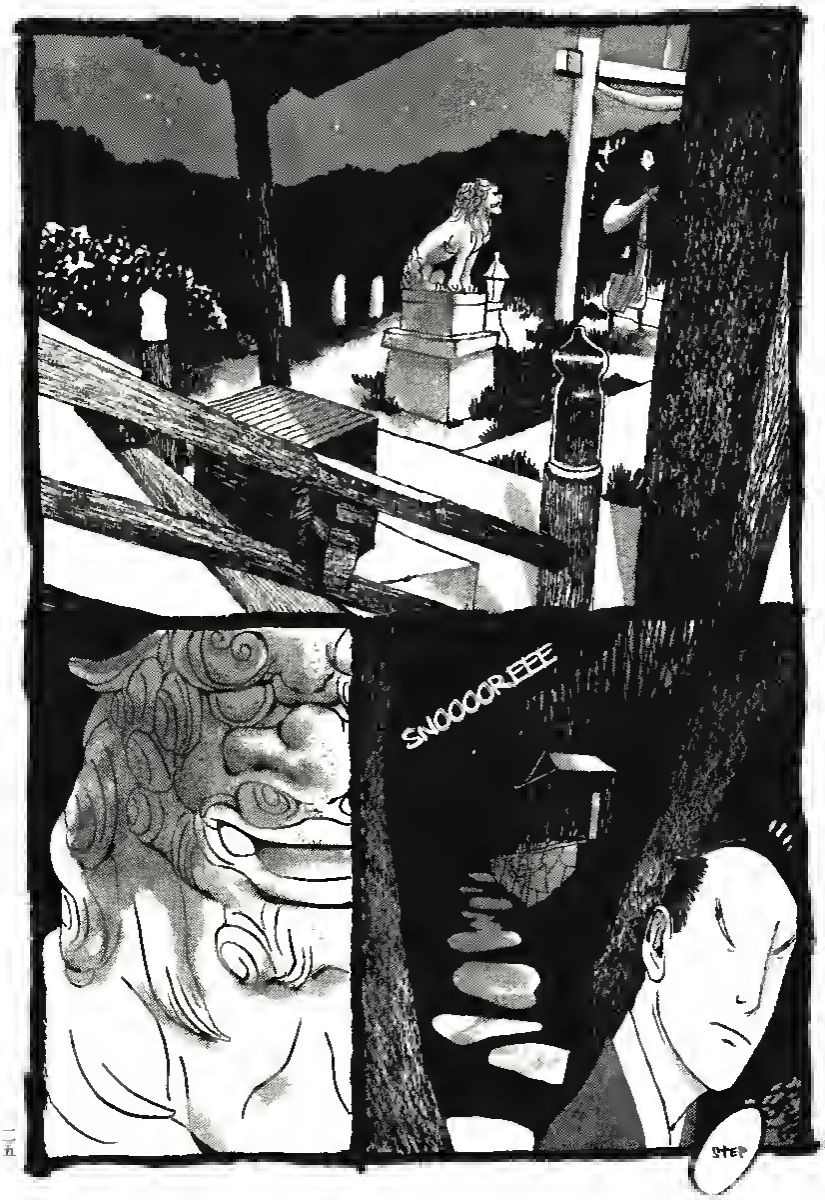
ザーっ

STEP

ズーン
ズ

YOU ARE POSSESSED BY THE SWORD.

ああ
ああ


SNOOOORFFF
STEP

SNOOO
EERO
STEP

SNOOOOREEE

おぐ
お
お

TAP

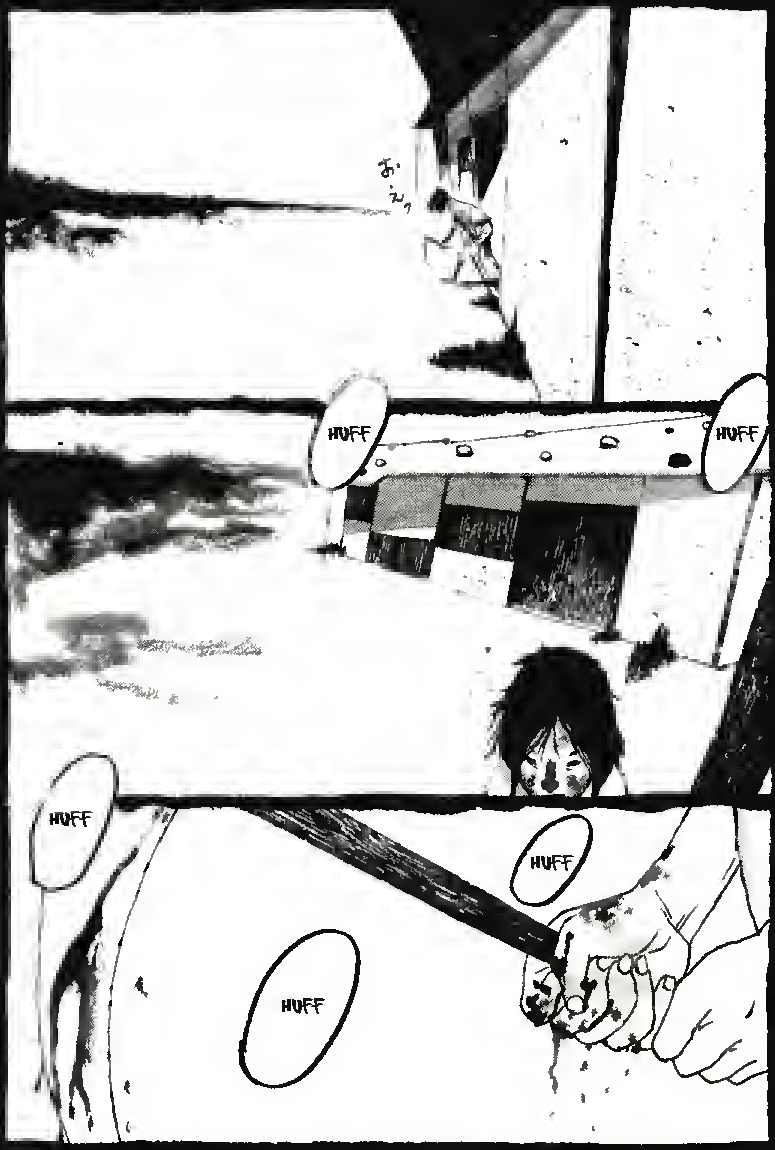
こっ…

ぐおおおお

AH...
ぐお
おお

CHAPTER 78

ON 6 AM OF THE 12TH AT THE TORINO SHRINE


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

ざぁぁぁぁぁ
HEY.

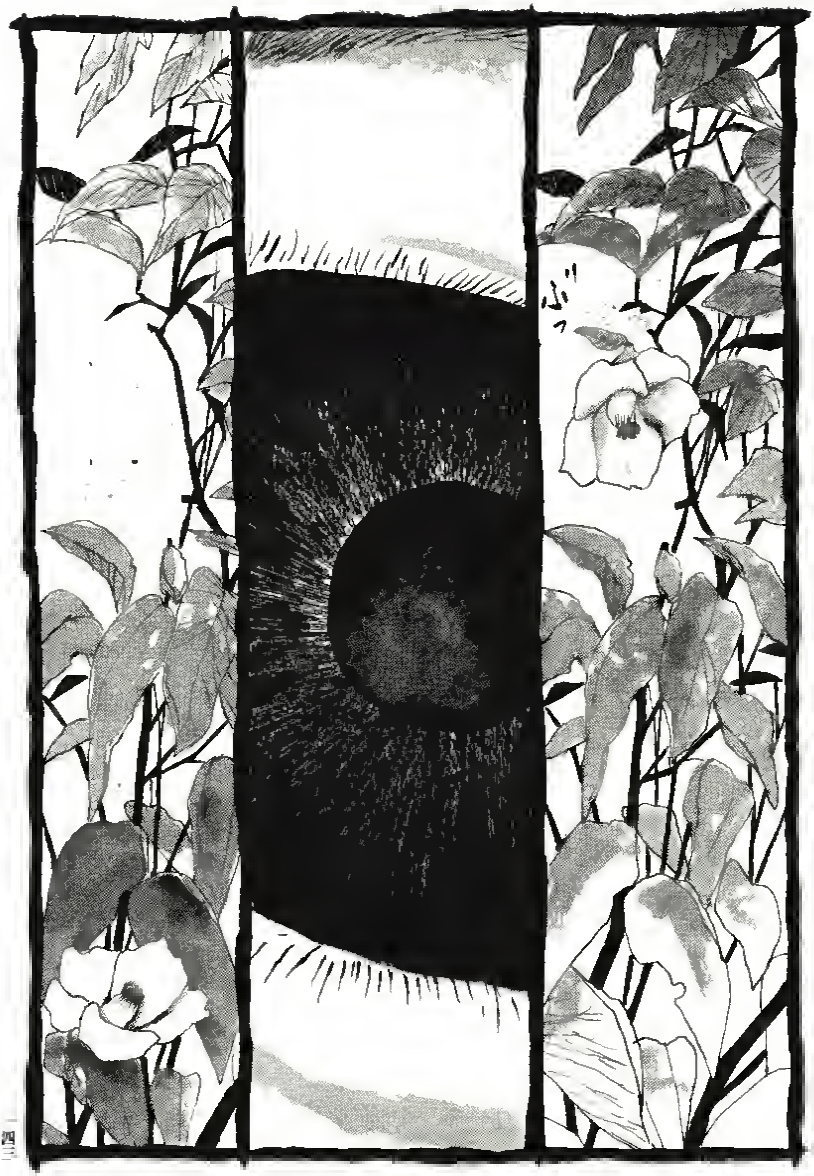
CHAPTER 78
THE FIRST PERSON I EVER KILLED WAS MY OLD MAN.
BACK WHEN I WAS STILL A KID.
ON 6 AM OF THE 12TH
AT THE ETORINO SHRINE
...

I HAVEN'T WENT BACK HOME EVER SINCE.
BUT WHENEVER I'M HUNGRY, I DREAM OF THAT DAY.
HE WAS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING FATHER BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO KILL. HAHAHA.
SPIT!

AHH... SINCE I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING, THE WIND FEELS LIKE IT'S PASSING THROUGH MY ENTIRE BODY.
THOSE SHOULD BE RAIN CLOUDS.
ズ
あ
あ
あ

WHEN THE DRIED CRACKED GROUND TURNS TO WET, BLACK MUD, MY HEART IS AT EASE...
ん
I LOVE THE RAIN, YOU KNOW.
ばあ
HA HA
あ
あ

バリ
あ あ あ あ


ぶっ

DRSH

NGHH!

CHAPTER 79

ROAR

NGHHH!

BASH

FALL

CLANG

NGHHHHH!
!
?...

ザッ

FLING

UGH!

UGH!
THUMP!

AAA...

おお
おお
おおおお
おお

おおおおお

CHAPTER 80

DEMON

LEAP!

NGH!

ぶんっ

CLANG!

MN!
さぁあぁぁ
SPLASH!

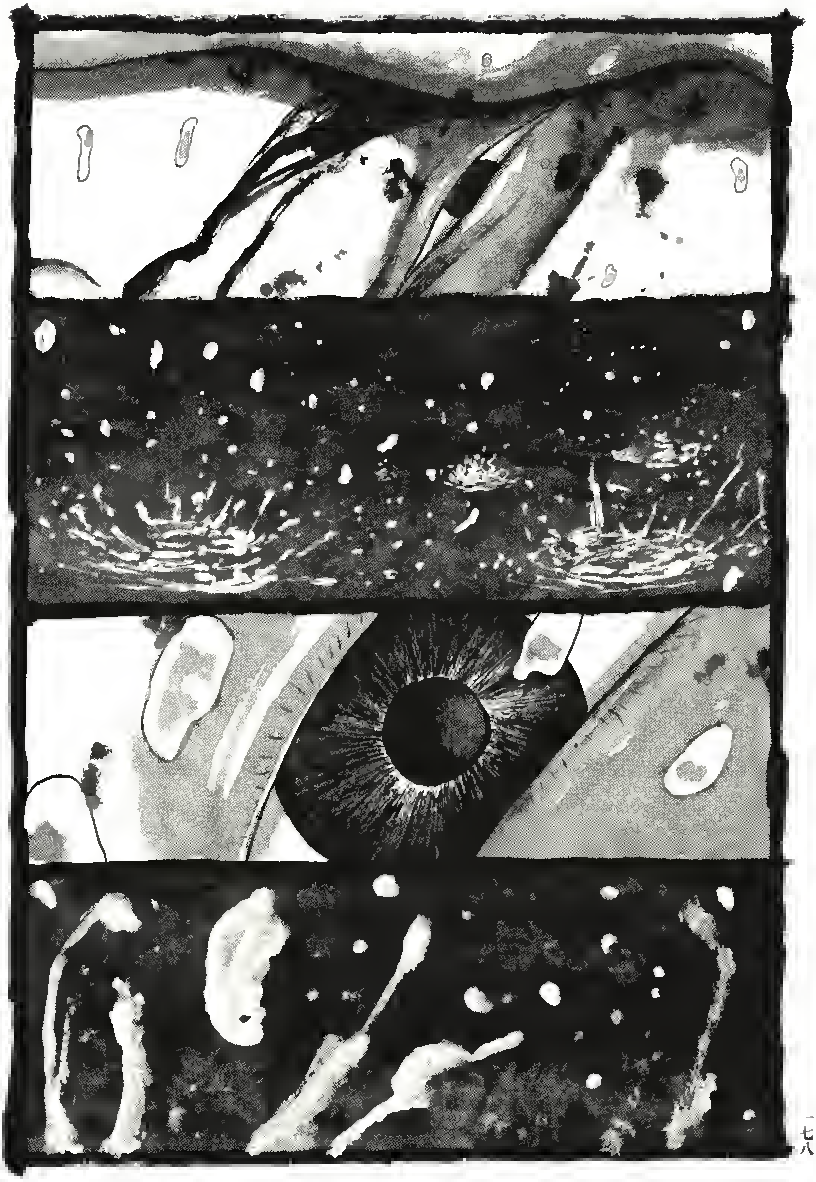
PANT
PANT
あ
PANT
PANT
あ
あ
MN...

DASH

ARGH

THUD

ぐっ
ずっ
ぎ
MN...
ああああ



ぶおおおお
!

ばっ
ざあああああ
ああ
あ
あ

ああああ
あああ

Guest...

ああああ

CHAPTER 81
CONCLUSION

おお
おお

SLSP
GUAHH!
DROP
GUH!

UGH!

ああああ
z...
!!

がが

HAHA, JUST AS I THOUGHT...
YOU REALLY ARE TERRIFYING.
YOU'RE EXACTLY WHAT...
I WANTED TO BE...

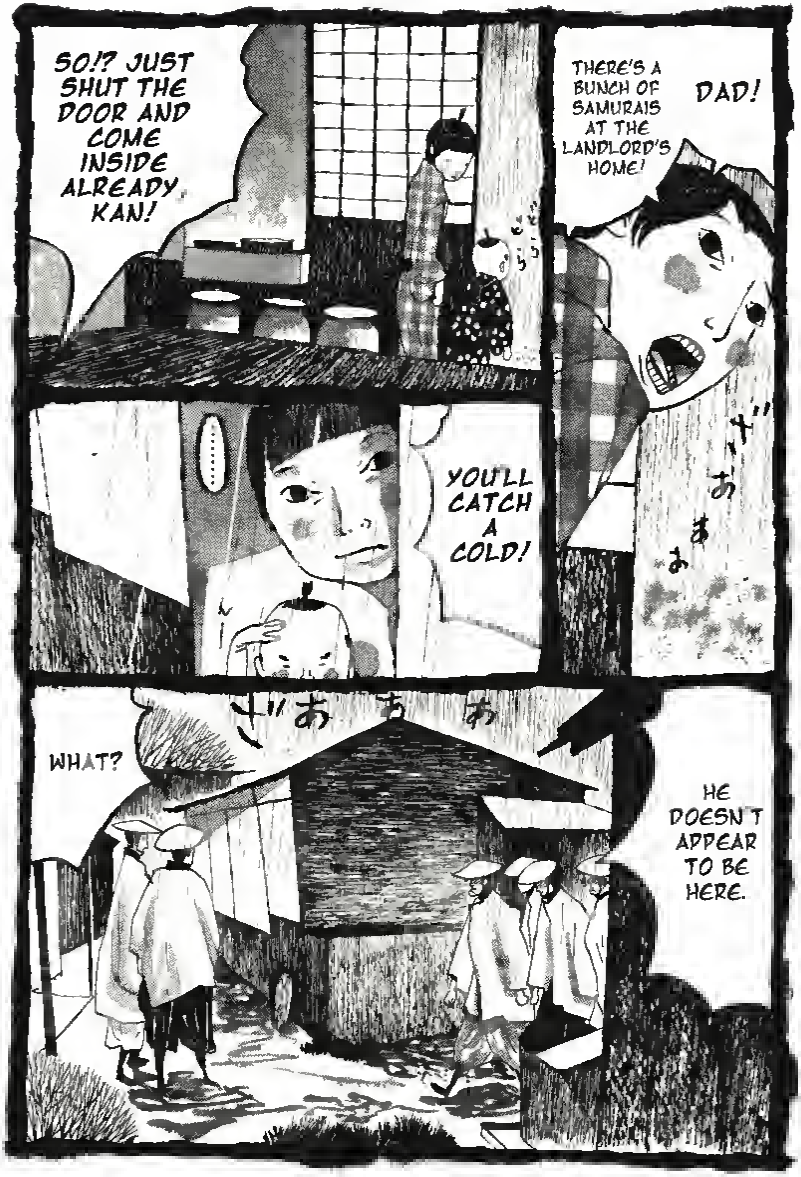
ぱんっ

きゃ

あぁ

あ
あ
あ
あ

CHAPTER 82
WHERE THE DEMONS GO


SO!? JUST SHUT THE DOOR AND COME INSIDE ALREADY KAN!
THERE'S A BUNCH OF SAMURAIS AT THE LANDLORD'S HOME!
DAD!
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
WHAT?
HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE HERE.

PROBA-BLY THIS MORNING.
WHEN?
THE LAND-LORD SAYS HE MOVED OUT!
THIS MOR-NING HUH...
……

CHAPTER 82
WHERE THE DEMONS GO

UGH!
ざぁぁぁ
AHH...

あああ
NGH...
TIGHTEN

HUFF
UGH!
HUFF
GRAB
OH, THAT'S NO GOOD...

BEAUTIFUL NAME, AIN'T IT?
MESHI. THAT'S THE NAME I GAVE TO HIM.
PANT
PANT

.....

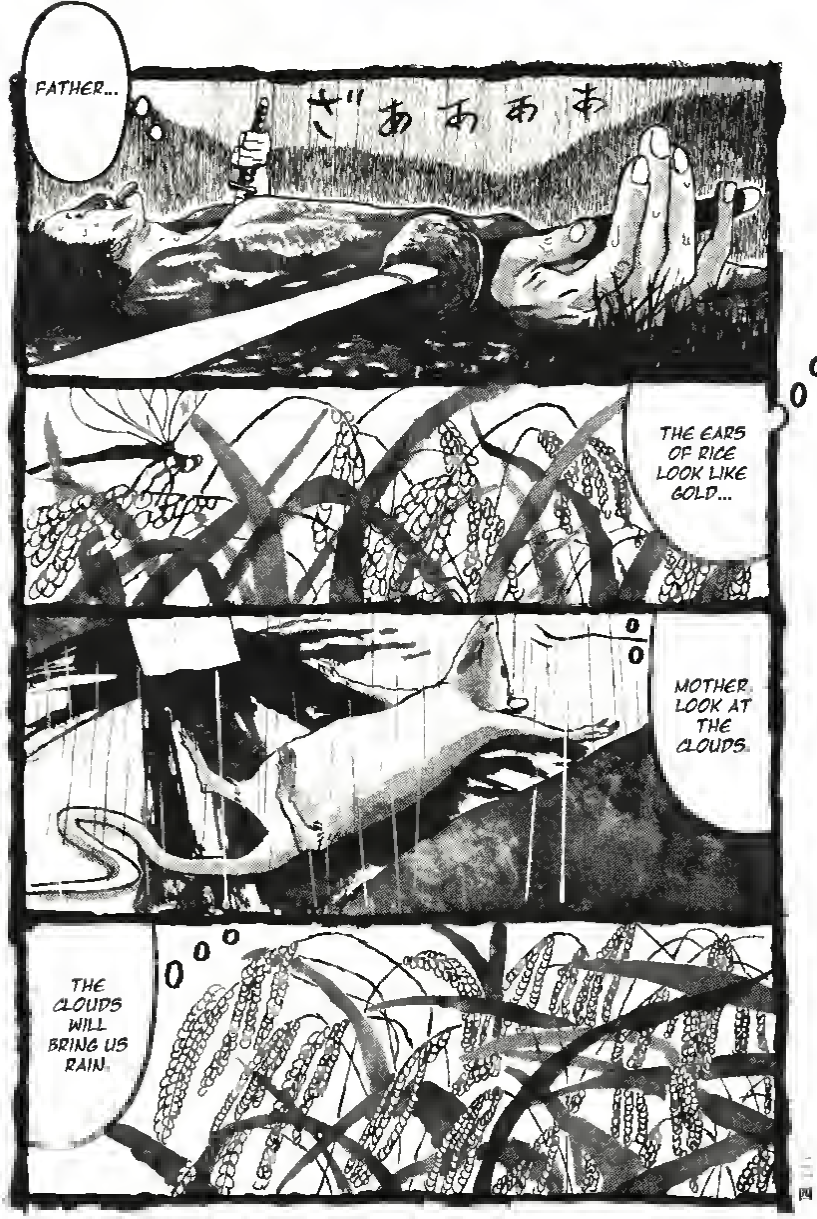
PANT
PANT
I GAVE HIM THE NAME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN THIS WORLD.

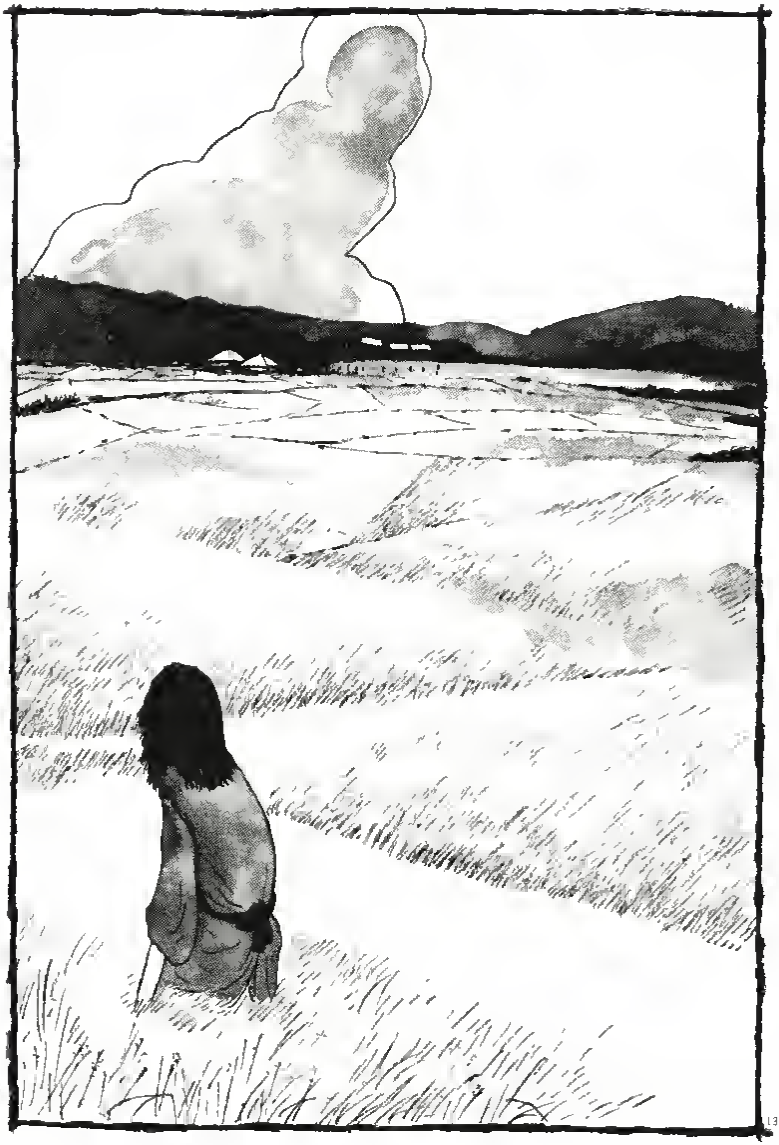
CAN'T BE GETTING YOU DIRTY NOW, MESHI.

I'LL ENTRUST HIM IN YOUR HANDS, SENOU.
I'M SURE MESHI WILL TAKE A LIKING TO YOU.
NGH...

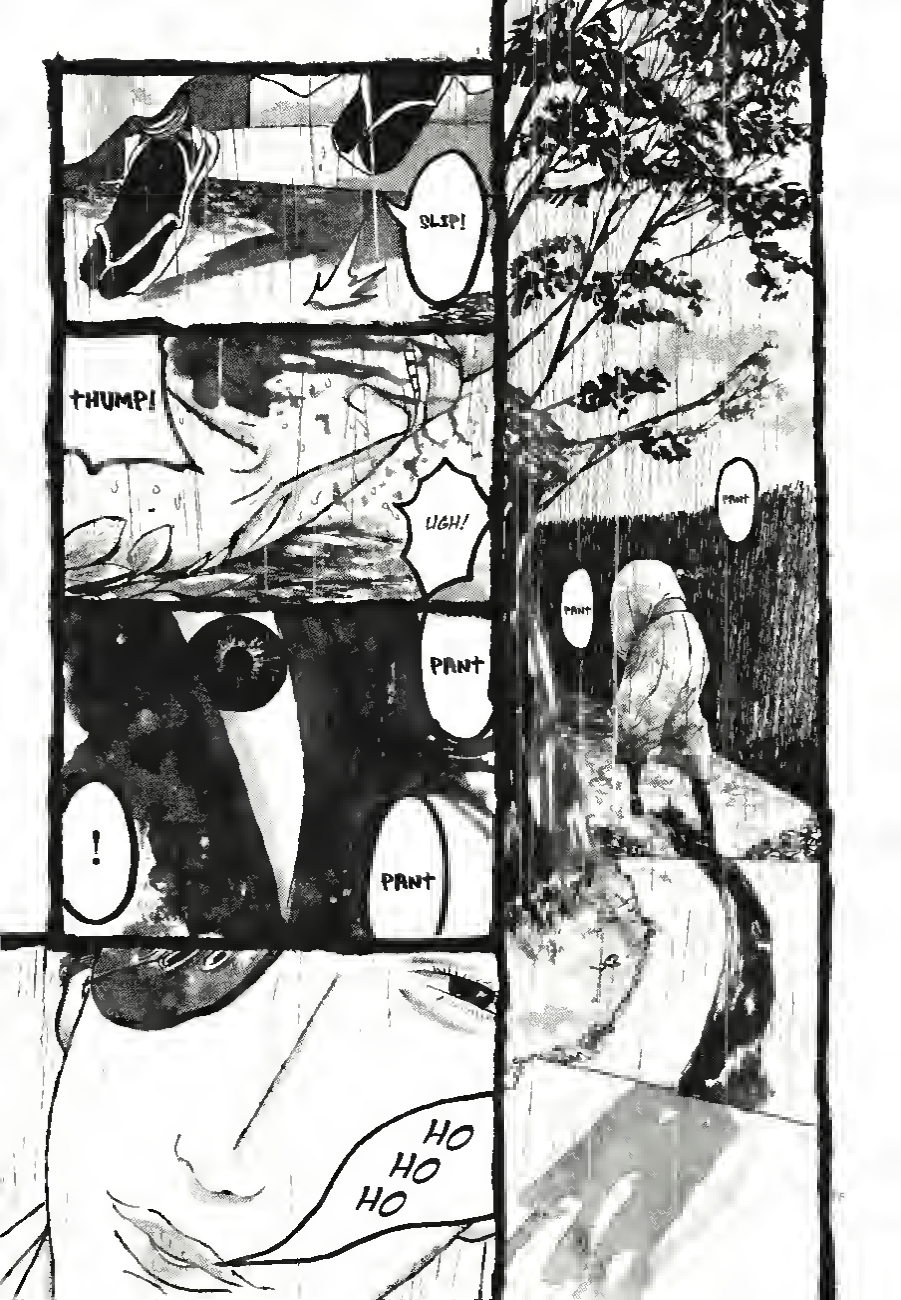
SHAKE
AH...
DASH

I LOVE THE RAIN...
WHEN THE DRIED CRACKED GROUND TURNS TO WET, BLACK MUD, MY HEART'S AT EASE
TO SEE THINGS REVITAL-IZED BY WATER...


FATHER...
さぁあああ
THE EARS OF RICE LOOK LIKE GOLD...
MOTHER LOOK AT THE CLOUDS.
THE CLOUDS WILL BRING US RAIN.



ザァァァ
STEP
ザァァァ
GUH...


SLIP!
THUMP!
UGH!
PANT
!
PANT
PANT
PANT
HO
HO
HO

THE DAYS I SPENT WITH YOU WERE TRULY WONDERFUL, SOUICHIROU.
ALLOW ME TO TAKE YOUR ARM WITH ME AS A PARTING GIFT TO THE UNDERWORLD.
URGH....

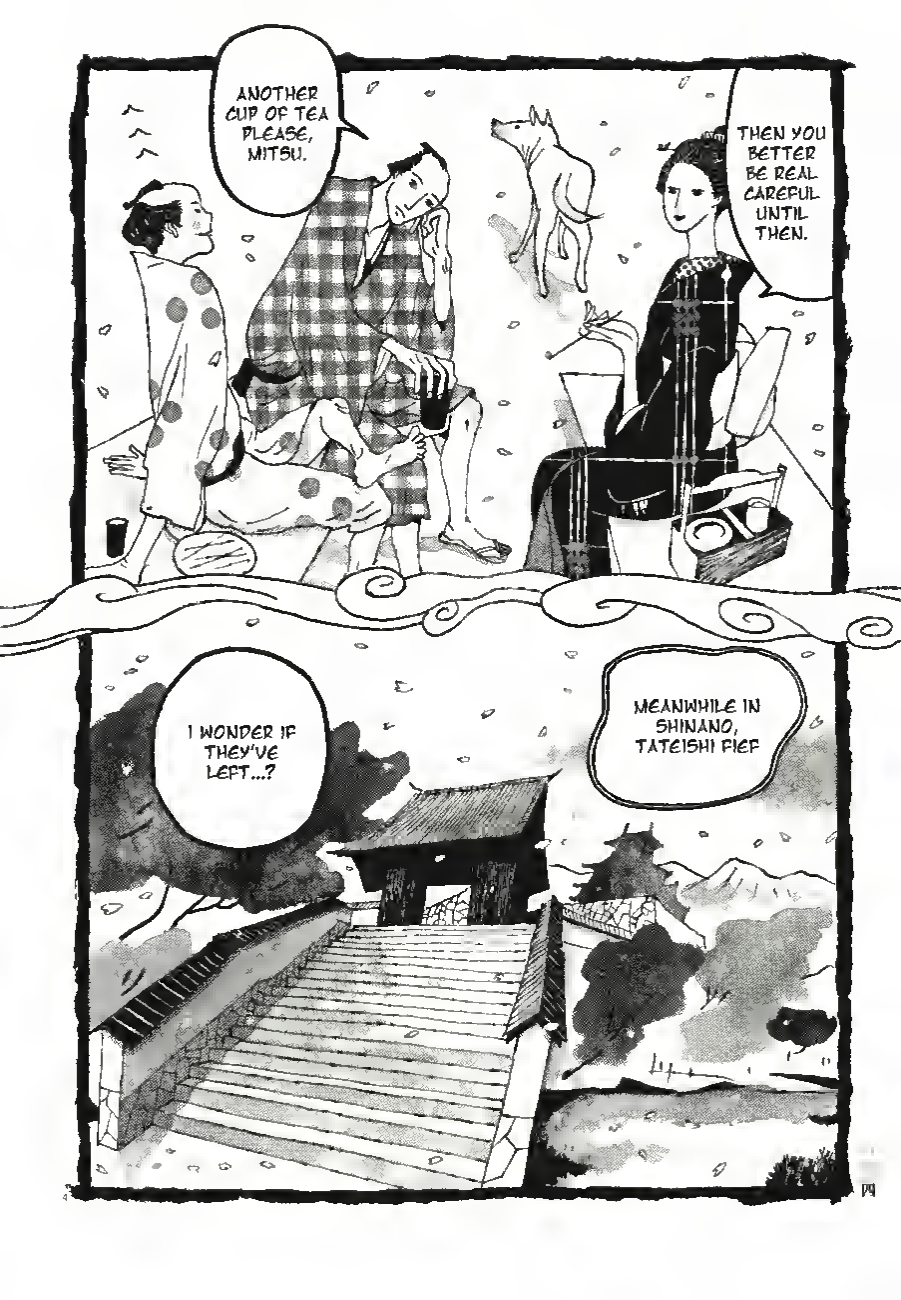
UGH...
.....
ざあああ
HAHA...

HA
HA...

EPILOGUE

EDO, MITSUYA SWEETS AND TEA SHOP.
THE LANDLORD SAID IT'S A SICKNESS,
A SICKNESS THAT MY FATHER WILL NEVER RID OF UNTIL THE DAY HE DIES.
HM...
KANKICHI
YOSHIBOU
PERHAPS I OUGHTA JUST CUT MY TIES WITH HIM.
YES, YOU SHOULD.
RIKI

THAT YOUR FATHER CAN'T QUIT GAMB-LING.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS BAIL HIM OUT,
KATSU
HEY MITSU, WHEN'S THE BABY DUE?
あ'
HEY KATSU, IF I CUT MY TIES WITH HIM, WILL YOU LIVE WITH ME?
THAT'S A POSSIBIL-ITY.
I SEE.
THE MIDWIFE SAID IN ABOUT 20 MORE DAYS.


ANOTHER CUP OF TEA PLEASE, MITSU.
THEN YOU BETTER BE REAL CAREFUL UNTIL THEN.
I WONDER IF THEY'VE LEFT...?
MEANWHILE IN SHINANO, TATEISHI FIEF

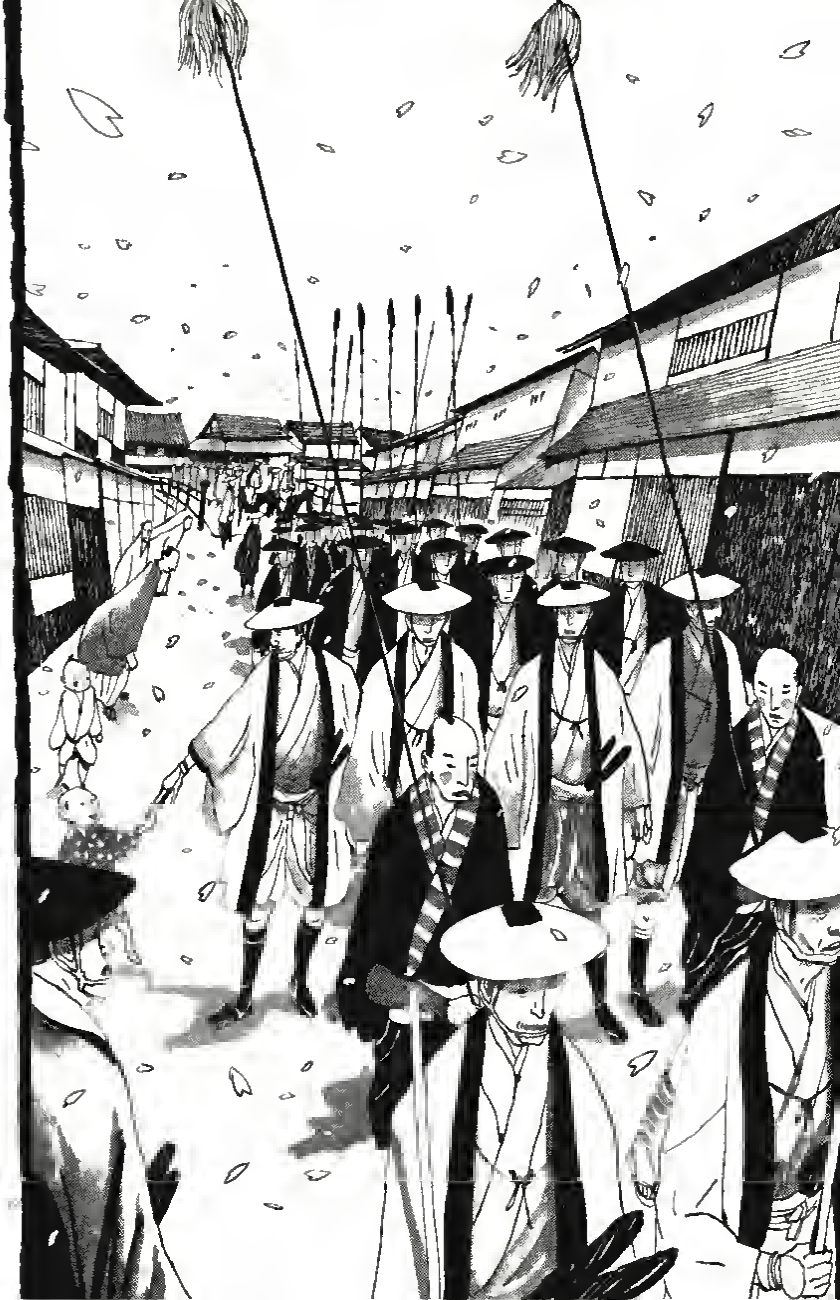
FALL.
I WAS WONDERING IF THE PROCESSION HAD LEFT EDO BY NOW...
FALL.
PARDON?
FALL.
HEAD KAROU TAKEBE HYOUBU-NOSUKE
CASTLE KEEPER YAMAMOTO HANSUKE
BY THE WAY, THESE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL
.....
FALL.
I'D ASSUME THEY'RE AT FUCHUU BY NOW
OH, I'M SURE THEY LEFT QUITE AWHILE AGO
FALL
IS THAT SO.
ALMOST EERILY SO.
FALL.

IT ALMOST FEELS AS IF I'M DREAMING...
HA HA
BACK TO EDO AGAIN, SHIRAKABECHOU, KATAGI TENEMENTS
WHAAAAAT?
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

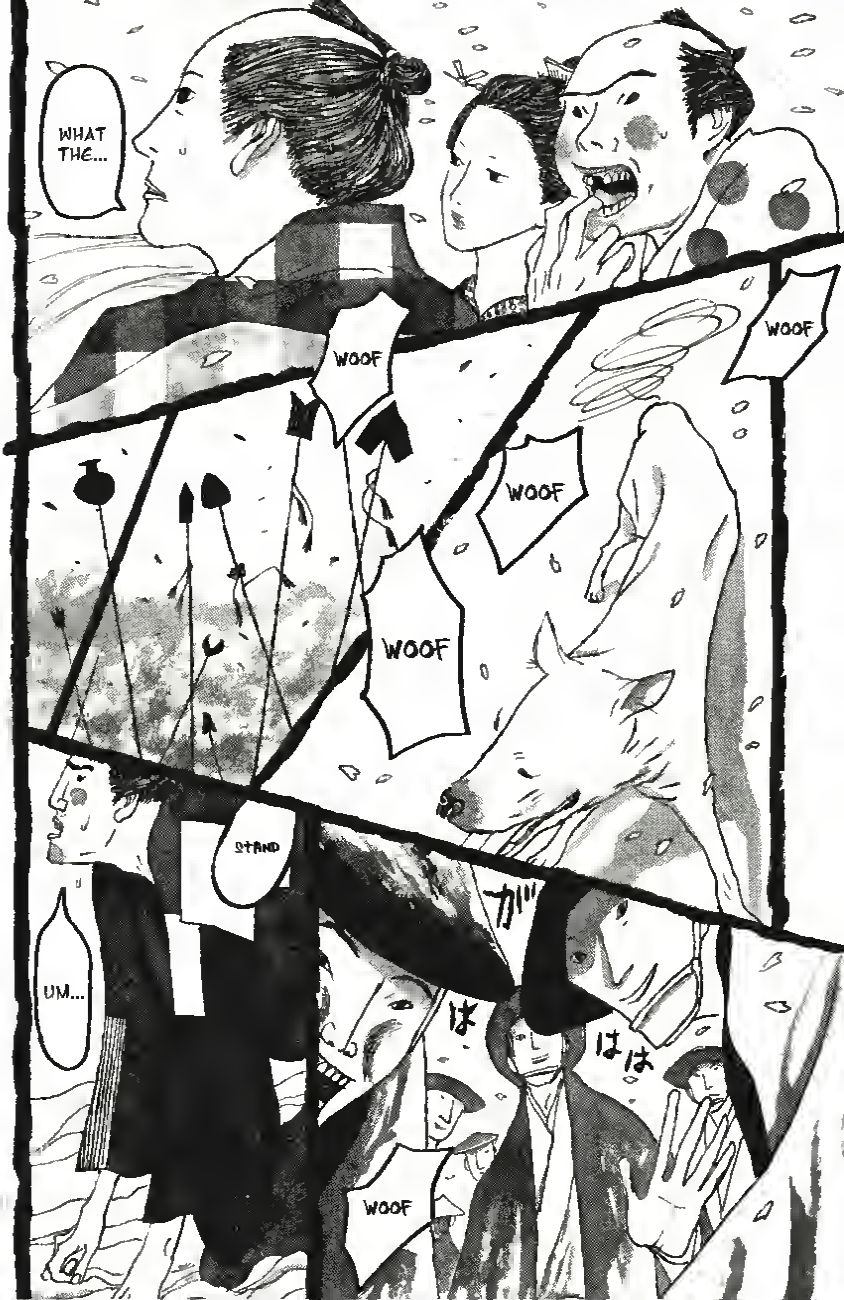
OH THAT? NAH.
ANYWAY
WHETHER OR NOT YOU TOLD TOME NOT TO GAMBLE ANYMORE!
I AAAASKED ...!
HOUGA
BUT YOU'RE THE LANDLORD! YOU MUST BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING!
HA HA
THAT'S A REAL SICKNESS HE'S GOT. WON'T MAKE A DIFFER-ENCE EVEN IF I TOLD HIM NOT TO.

HM?
I MAY BE THE LANDLORD BUT THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO
HEY, YOZAE.
BESIDES, HE'S A GROWN MAN, NOT SOME KID. IT'S NOT AS IF I COULD JUST TIE HIM UP TO A POST OR ANYTHING

A PROCES-
SION AT
THIS TIME
OF DAY?



WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF


WHAT THE...
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
STAND
UM...
ガバ
は
はは
WOOF

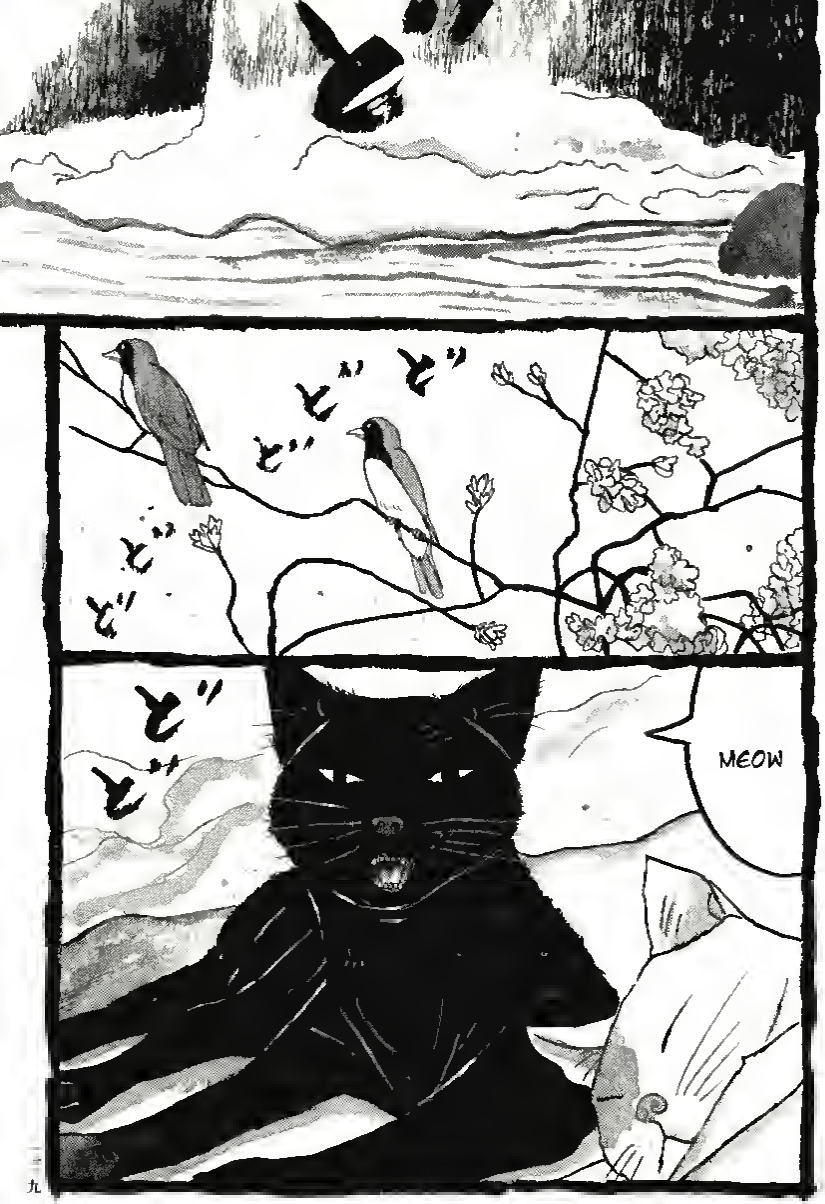
YOU CAN SKIP THE FORMALITIES.
IT'S ALRIGHT, SHOPKEEP.
WE'RE IN A RUSH, ANYWAYS.
WOOF
WOOF
MY LORD URGENTLY WISHES TO HAVE SOME OF MITSUYA'S DANGO!
WOOF
AH... IT'S THAT MAN...
WOOF

KAROU OMURASAKI JUUZAEMON (FORMERLY MORI SAZATAROU)
OUR PRESENCE HERE IS ONLY INCON-VENIENC-ING THE SHOP, MY LORD!
WOOF
HAHAHA. YES, I KNOW, I KNOW...
WOOF
NOT ONLY THAT, WE MUST ARRIVE AT HINOJUKU BY TODAY! THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE, MY LORD!
AH, THE DOG...

WELL, HELLO THERE, RIKI YOU'VE GROWN TO BE A FINE DOG, HAVEN'T YOU?
PANT
PANT
PANT
OH MY, I CAN HARDLY RECOGNIZE KAN AND YOSHIBOU ANYMORE.

AH...
I'LL HAVE SOME DANGO PLEASE, MITSU.

HAHA...


どゞ
どゞ
どゞ
どゞ
どゞ
どゞ
MEOW

光
-FIN-

【竹光侍】おわり……

めでたし、めでたし。

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